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Collecting *Avengers Assemble #9-13* and *Annual #1* — written by Kelly Sue DeConnick and Christos Gage; and illustrated by Pete Woods, Stefano Caselli and Tomm Coker.

T+

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AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

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AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

KELLY SUE DeCONNICK

STEFANO CASELLI

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

009

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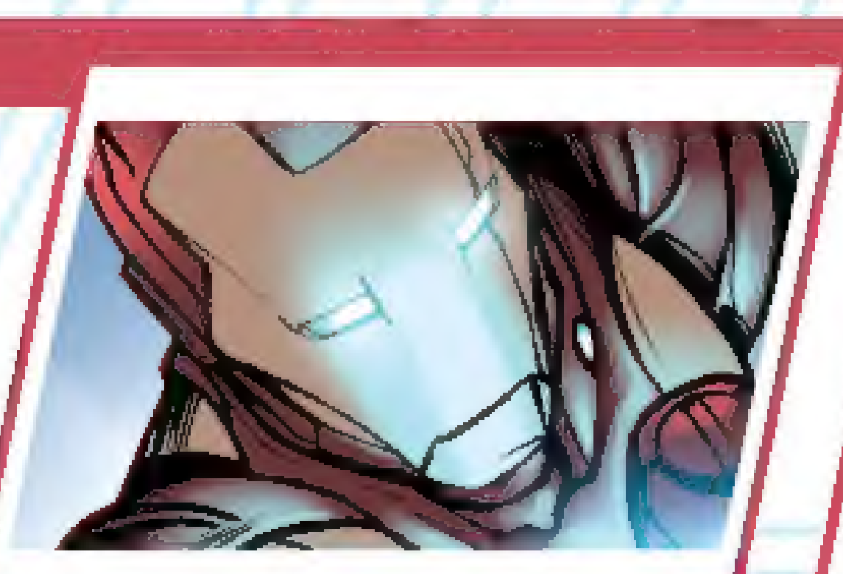
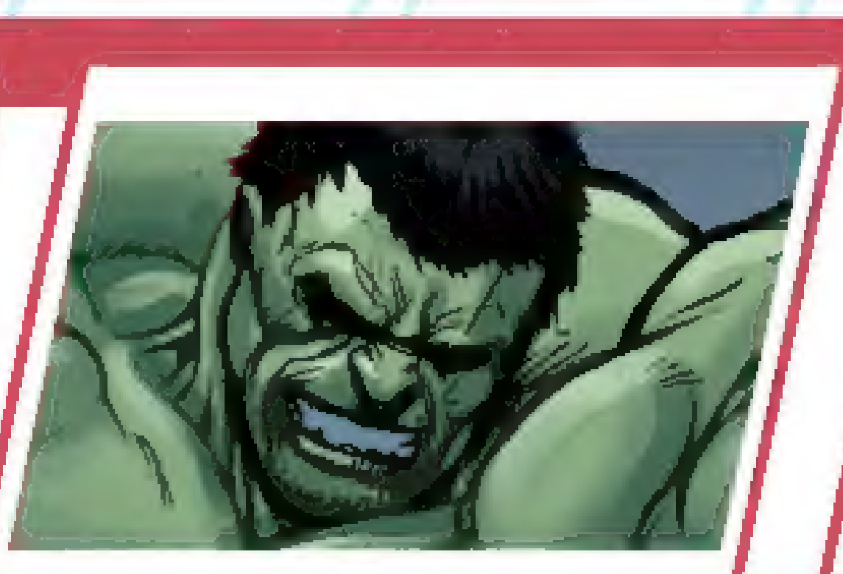
AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

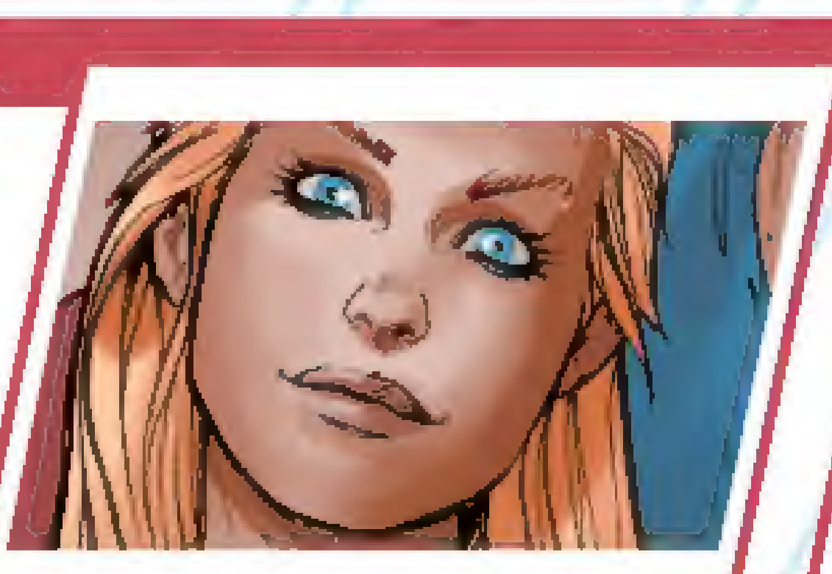
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE



IRON MAN
TONY STARK
BILLIONAIRE TECHNOLOGIST,
HIGH-TECH ARMOR

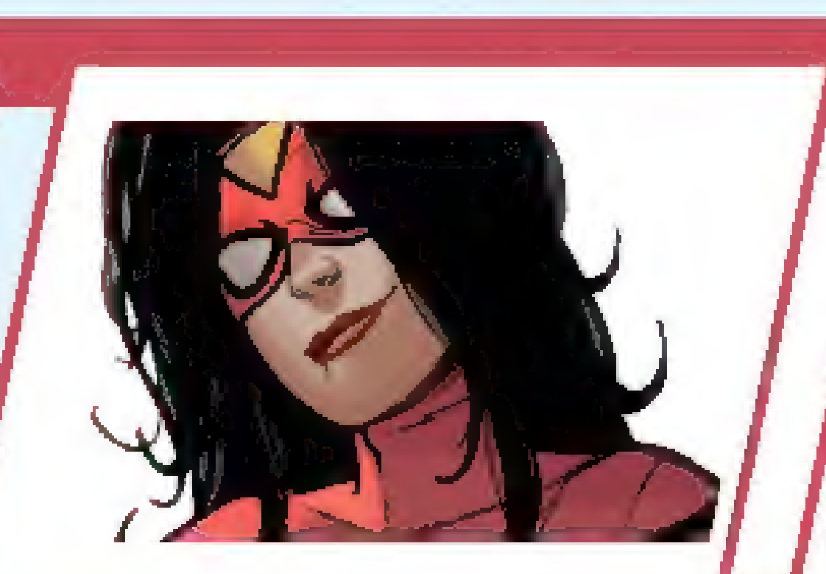


THE HULK
BRUCE BANNER
BRILLIANT MAN,
GAMMA-CHARGED MONSTER



CAPTAIN MARVEL
CAROL DANVERS
FIGHTER PILOT,
FLIES, ZAPS, PUNCHES

CAPTAIN AMERICA
STEVE ROGERS
SUPER-SOLDIER



SPIDER-WOMAN
JESSICA DREW
SPIDER-POWERED
SECRET AGENT

THOR
GOD OF THUNDER

KELLY SUE **DeCONNICK**
WRITER

STEFANO **CASELLI**
ARTIST

RAIN **BEREDO**
COLOR ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON **COWLES**
LETTERER

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FILE: ASSEMBLE_009

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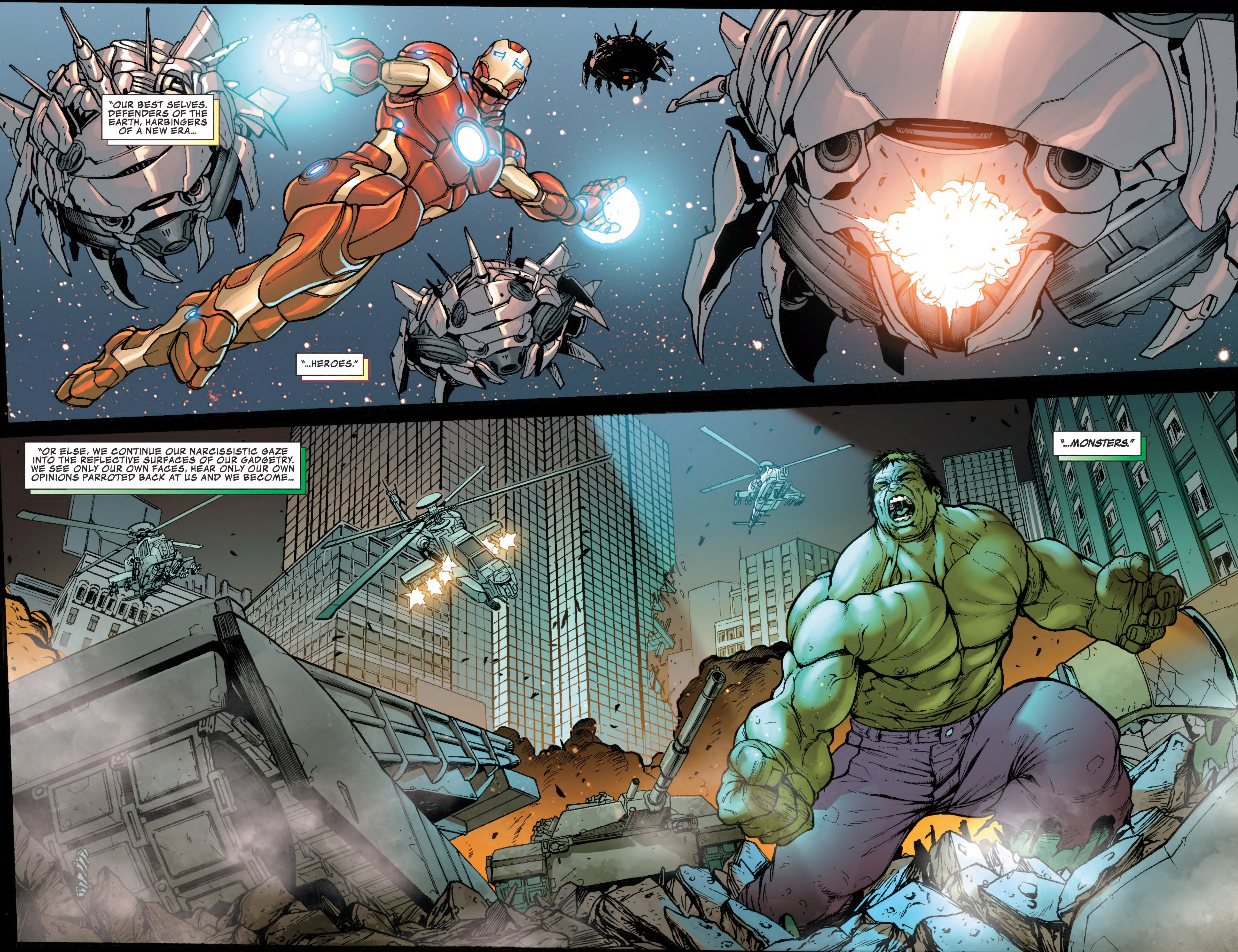
S.T.A.N. SPEAKERS CONFERENCE, PALO ALTO, CA.
STARK INDUSTRIES
STARK EXPO
AND SO WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN? WHAT'S THE THRUST? IT *MEANS* THAT THE FIELD OF INNOVATION *ITSELF* IS BEING INNOVATED.
CREATORS LIKE YOU ARE INVENTING NEW AVENUES TO CREATION, MAKERS ARE DEVELOPING NOT JUST NEW *THINGS* TO CREATE, BUT NEW *WAYS* TO CREATE. CHEAPER WAYS!
CHEAPER INNOVATIONS MEAN MORE INNOVATORS. *MORE* INNOVATORS MEAN THAT SUDDENLY OUR FUTURE IS LIMITED NOT BY OUR *RESOURCES,* BUT ONLY BY THE OUTERMOST EDGES OF OUR IMAGINATION...
THE FUTURE IS *HERE,* FOLKS. IT IS RIGHT HERE IN THIS ROOM, *RIGHT NOW.* I'M LOOKING AT IT. THE FUTURE IS *YOU...*
AND IF I MAY SAY SO? THE FUTURE LOOKS--
EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY.
- Pandemics
- Floods
- Global Market Collapse
- Large Scale Terrorism
--LIKE HELL ON EARTH!
I POSIT THAT IF WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO CONTINUE TO BE *BLINDED* BY THE MAGICAL THINKING THAT IS INHERENT IN THE WORSHIP OF TECHNOLOGY, WE DO SO AT OUR PERIL.
WE *MUST* FIND A WAY TO ADDRESS OUR OIL ADDICTION WITH MORE THAN BAND-AID SOLUTIONS LIKE VERTICAL FARMS, FRACKING AND CORN ETHANOL--SOLUTIONS THAT CREATE AS MANY PROBLEMS AS THEY SOLVE.
WE MUST DO THIS. YOU AND I. TOGETHER. THE FUTURE IS BLEAK, THE TASK NEARLY INSURMOUNTABLE, BUT IF WE...
IF WE CAN PUT DOWN OUR DOPAMINE DEVICES DISGUISED AS TELEPHONES LONG ENOUGH TO SEE WHAT'S *REALLY* HAPPENING BEFORE US, WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEP UP. TO DELIVER ON THIS TRANSFORMATIVE MOMENT AND BECOME--


"OUR BEST SELVES. DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH, HARBINGERS OF A NEW ERA...
"...HEROES."
"OR ELSE, WE CONTINUE OUR NARCISSISTIC GAZE INTO THE REFLECTIVE SURFACES OF OUR GADGETRY. WE SEE ONLY OUR OWN FACES, HEAR ONLY OUR OWN OPINIONS PARROTED BACK AT US AND WE BECOME...
"...MONSTERS."

AVENGERS TOWER.
STARK
BANNER!
CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER, DR. BANNER!
OKAY. CONGRATULATIONS, MR. STARK.
FRANKIE SAYS RELA
WHAT AM I CONGRATULATING YOU FOR?
NOT ME, *YOU*. YOU WON THE PORTENT AWARD FROM THE FUTURE SOCIETY OF FUTURISTS.
YOU'RE KIDDING.
I KNOW! I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT, EITHER.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
NOTHING. IT'S JUST...FUTURISM ISN'T REALLY YOUR THING, YOU KNOW? AND THEY CITED THAT PRESENTATION YOU DID AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY AND THAT WAS...WELL...
IT WAS WHAT?
IT WAS *GREAT*-- I MEAN, I WASN'T THERE, BUT I KNOW IT WAS GREAT...
AND ALSO A HUGE BUMMER.
I SAW A LITTLE BIT OF IT ON YOUTUBE.

THERE ARE, ADMITTEDLY, THINGS ABOUT MY PRESENTATION STYLE THAT I COULD IMPROVE.
THAT'S ALL I MEANT.
FRANKIE SAYS RELAX
BUT I'M... *SUBSTANTIVE.*
WHAT? AS OPPOSED TO ME? YOU DON'T THINK I'M SUBSTANTIVE? *I* THINK I'M SUBSTANTIVE.
FRANKIE SAYS RELAX
NO, NO, YOU ARE. YOU ARE, BUT YOU'RE ALSO...
RICH? HANDSOME? FAMOUS? *FUN?*
FRANKIE SAYS RELAX
RAZZLE-DAZZLE...Y.
RAZZLE-DAZZLE-Y?
YOU DO RAZZLE-DAZZLE.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO YOUR RANKS, *CAPTAINS MARVEL AND AMERICA,* WE WERE HAVING A *PRIVATE* CONVERSATION.
NO, YOU WEREN'T.
WE REALLY WEREN'T.
WURRR
WHAT *IS* THAT?
KALE.
FRANKIE SAYS RELAX

AND YOU'RE GOING TO DRINK IT? YOU'RE GOING TO DRINK PULVERIZED KALE. WITH YOUR MOUTH.
YES.
WHAT IS THIS?
IT LOOKS LIKE A CASH REGISTER RECEIPT.
IT'S MY AWARD.
YOU WON A CASH REGISTER RECEIPT? CONGRATULATIONS!
NO, IT'S *NOT YOUR AWARD!*
RANKIE SAYS
IT'S FROM A NEW PRINTER THING. IT'S LIKE A...LIKE A NEWS FEED. YOU CAN PROGRAM THEM TO PRINT OFF WHATEVER-- HEADLINES, SCIENCE NEWS...
FLIGHT CONDITIONS?
YOU COULD DO FLIGHT CONDITIONS. PUZZLES, HOROSCOPES--
SUBSTANTIVE STUFF. LIKE HOROSCOPES.
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE... ARIES!
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY--?
LADIES LOVE HOROSCOPES.
AND I'M SUDDENLY CONSIDERING ADDING PULVERIZED *IRON* TO MY KALE.
AAAAAND I RETRACT MY LAST STATEMENT ABOUT LADIES AND THEIR PREFERENCES.
DID YOU READ THIS THING ABOUT THE ALIEN LAKE BURIED UNDER ANTARCTICA?

LAKE VOSTOK--REED RICHARDS DID SOME WORK THERE. IT'S NOT *ACTUALLY* ALIEN. THAT'S A NICKNAME. IT'S OLD.
I GUESS *"OLD LAKE"* DIDN'T HAVE THE SAME RING TO IT.
YOU WOULD KNOW.
IT'S *TWENTY MILLION YEARS* OLD. A TEAM OF RUSSIANS MANAGED TO GET A SAMPLE OUT OF IT A COUPLE MONTHS AGO. DID THEY RELEASE THEIR FINDINGS?
NO. THE SAMPLE'S GONE. AS IS ONE OF THE SCIENTISTS--A GUY NAMED SERGEI SOROKIN.
I KNOW SERGEI.
ME TOO.
I COULD SEE SERGEI SKIMMING.
ME TOO.
Adding a complicating, if not sinister, air to the mystery is the fact that Sorokin's colleagues at Camp Vostok have not been heard from since the day of his disappearance, and weather conditions at the site will prevent visitation for another month at least.
"SINISTER? IS THAT HYPERBOLE OR SHOULD WE GO CHECK IT OUT?"
IF SERGEI'S INTO SOMETHING, HE MIGHT HAVE CUT A COMM LINE TO GIVE HIMSELF A LEAD, BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO HURT ANYONE. THEY SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT, JUST CUT OFF.
STILL, COLD DOESN'T MUCH AFFECT THE HULK. I COULD GO.
BETTER TO TAKE A TEAM.
OR TWO TEAMS.
I'LL BET YOU *A HUNDRED GRAND* THAT MY TEAM CAN FIND SERGEI BEFORE YOUR TEAM.
EXCUSE ME?!

COME ON, IT'LL BE FUN! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE YOUR SCIENTIFIC SUPERIORITY TO MY CRASS COMMERCIAL GADGETRY AND GET BACK AT ME FOR THAT TIME I SHOT HULK-YOU INTO SPACE.
YOU-HULK. HULK. WHATEVER.
FRANKIE SAYS RELAX
I DON'T THINK I'M "SCIENTIFICALLY SUPERIOR."
SURE YOU DO.
AND I THINK I'M AT LEAST THE SECOND GREATEST MIND OF MY GENERATION--IF NOT THE LAST CENTURY--AND AS IRON MAN, I HAVE LITERALLY SAVED THE WORLD ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.
AND ON HOW MANY OCCASIONS HAVE YOU NEARLY DESTROYED IT?
FRANKIE SAYS RELAX
SEE? SEE? COME ON. PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS! MY TECH AND DOGGED OPTIMISM VERSUS YOUR RAW SCIENCE AND DOUR...DOURNESS.
I'M NOT DOUR, I'M LOW-KEY.
FRANKI
...

I AM ALSO NOT A BAZILLIONAIRE! IF I DO THIS, IT WON'T BE FOR MONEY.
FOR SIMPLE BRAGGING RIGHTS, THEN! WHOEVER WINS GETS THE SATISFACTION OF HAVING THE OTHER RECOGNIZE THEIR POINT OF VIEW AND GENERAL SUPERIORITY.
PLUS, THE LOSER WALKS NAKED FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING TO AVENGERS TOWER. AND BACK.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU *WANT* TO LOSE.
FILTHY RUMORS.
ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE ON. LET'S SET IT UP. WHO'S ON WHOSE TEAM?
WILL YOU BE ON MY TEAM?
NO! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TWO?
I'LL BE THE REFEREE...
AND ALSO THE ***JUDGE.***

UM...
HEY! YOU BUSY? BANNER AND I--
HULK WANT TO WIN BET--
NEEDLESS TO SAY, I THOUGHT OF YOU FIRST.
THE SCARLET WITCH.
NO.
I WOULD, BUT I'M ON, LIKE, SIX TEAMS RIGHT NOW.
SPIDER-MAN.
PFFT.
THE BLACK WIDOW.
GRRR.
WOLVERINE.
I'M IN.
SPIDER-WOMAN.
REALLY?
NOT WITH YOU. WITH HIM.
HEH HEH HEH
I CAN CONTROL HIM. SAFER FOR EVERYBODY.
YOU NOT CONTROL HULK.
OH, YEAH?
HULLLLK... MAKE ME A SANDWICH.

HIPPY PEANUT BUTTER. HAVE TO BE MIXED.
POINT TO THE LADY WITH THE PHEROMONES.
HULK HOPE YOU LIKE.
I MAY NOT HAVE ENTIRELY--
...
--THOUGHT THIS THROUGH.

THOR! BUDDY! I WAS JUST COMING TO LOOK FOR YOU.
YOU KNOW YOU WERE MY FIRST CHOICE.
AYE. AFTER CAROL. AND STEVE.
WHO WERE RIGHT THERE, YES.
AND WANDA. AND NATASHA.
AND LOGAN...
LOGAN...?
SERIOUSLY. IS THIS GOING TO BE A THING? BECAUSE...
HA HA HA HA HA HA
NO, MY FRIEND. I JEST! MY EGO IS GRAND, BUT NOT SO GRAND AS TO BE TOO EASILY SLIGHTED.
REALLY? WHAT'S THAT LIKE?
AS GLORIOUS, COMPLETE AND HARD-WON AS SHALL BE OUR VICTORY! WE WILL LEAVE THEM WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A GOAT FOR THE MILKING.
CLAP
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
GOATS!

F-F-FAINTING G-G-GOATS...
G-G-GENIUS, RIGHT? I-INSTEAD OF H-HULKING OUT OR R-RUNNING OFF TO M-MADRIPOOR, TH-TH-THEY F-F-FREAK OUT AND T-T-TAKE A N-NAP UNTIL THE FEELING P-P-PASSES.
WH-WHY CAN'T IN-INSTANT N-NAPPING BE M-MY S-SUPER-POWER?
OR G-GOOD CHOICES? L-LIKE W-WHY DIDN'T I PICK THE TEAM WITH R-ROCKET B-BOOTS...?
SPIDER-WOMAN COLD?
IT IS EIGHTEEN-B-BAZILLION DEGREES BELOW ZERO, BIG GUY. SPIDER-WOMAN IS F-FREEZING HER--
OH. WOW.
THIS IS NOT *HUMILIATING* AT ALL.
NO! KEEP THEM THERE. JUST...
PICK UP THE P-PACE. I S-SUDDENLY FEEL THE NEED TO P-PUNISH TONY STARK FOR THIS.
RAAAAAAAAAA!

HELLOOOO...?
THIS IS GREAT. I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T THINK OF THIS BEFORE.
YOU HAVE TRUST FALLS IN ASGARD?
nay.
OF COURSE YOU DON'T. BECAUSE THEY'RE STUPID. THAT'S NOT HOW YOU BUILD A TEAM.
DANVERS.
WHO'S STUPID?
GOT IT!
NOBODY! THOR AND IRON MAN HAVE REACHED CAMP VOSTOK.
GAH! YOU BURNED IT.
TONY AND THOR ARE FIRST TO THE CAMP!
BAM!
THOR + IRON MAN
TEAM HAPPY
HULK + SPIDER-WOMAN
TEAM SAD
DID YOU USE THE POPCORN BUTTON? YOU USED THE POPCORN BUTTON.
YA NEVER WANNA USE THE POPCORN BUTTON.

TAKE BANNER. BANNER'S A TRUST FALL KIND OF GUY.
NOW, I GET IT--HE'S GOT TO KEEP HIS INNER RAGE MONSTER IN CHECK--AND YOU KNOW, MAYBE YOGA HELPS. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE WOULD HELP?
MEAD.
HEH. NOT IN *MY* EXPERIENCE, BUT OKAY, SURE. FOR SOME PEOPLE, YES.
I WAS GOING FOR "LEVITY," "FUN," A LITTLE--
OUR OPPONENTS HAVE BEEN HERE AND GONE.
WHAT? NO. THEY'RE ON FOOT--
AYE. AND LARGE FEET AT THAT. SUCH AS WOULD LEAVE THESE TRACKS.
CAN'T BE OUR GUY. ARMOR, WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE OTHER--
WARNING! MOTION DETECTED--
GRRRRR

RAAAAAAA!
KRAKAAAA

SFFT
RAAAARRR!
WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE THINGS?
UNKNOWN. DEVELOPING HYPOTHESIS...
DANVERS! I'M SENDING A VISUAL. ANYBODY GOT A THEORY?
EW.
HMPH.

I HAVE A THEORY.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY HITTIN' 'EM REAL HARD?
"THAT USUALLY WORKS."
THERE'S MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF THESE THINGS, WOLVERINE. WE COULD USE A PLAN B.
I HAVE A QUESTION...

THWBOOOOM
HOW MANY POINTS DO WE GET FOR SAVING YOUR BUTTS?
RARRRRRRR!
SMASH!
I'M THINKING TWENTY, THIRTY POINTS AT LEAST.

HA HA, VERY--
OH, NO...
WHAT THE--
NO NO NO...
THIS IS NOT FUNNY AT ALL.
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

It's a true changing-of-the-guard this month in the world of the Avengers, as we say farewell to chairman of the board Brian Michael Bendis, after a tour of duty lasting eight years and over two-hundred individual issues! Brian's final **AVENGERS** and **NEW AVENGERS** releases will be oversized to commemorate his departure, as he journeys into the world of X. But never fear—we'll see him around these parts again! After all, we've still got to wrap up work on the long promised age of Ultron project for next year!

And with Brian's departure comes a welcome to the new **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE** creative team of Kelly Sue Deconnick and Stefano Caselli, beginning with this month's issue #9! Kelly Sue (or KS as we think of her) is the writer who's making **CAPTAIN MARVEL** soar, while Stefano is a familiar face from his work on **AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE** not long ago (not to mention **SECRET WARRIORS** and **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**). We're told their first issue involves a very different battle between Iron Man and the Hulk—and from there the sky's the limit!

Sadly coming to the end of the road this month is **AVENGERS ACADEMY,** which wraps up with its 39th issue! There's no denying that the fans of Reptil, Finesse, Hazmat, Mettle, Striker, Veil and the rest of the gang were incredibly devoted and articulate—the series boasted one of the most thoughtful letters pages in the industry. It's a testament to the strength of what Christos Gage, Mike McKone and the other artists who followed in his wake created. So take a bow, fellas! And don't be surprised to see a number of these characters showing up in another new **MARVEL NOW!** Series before too long!

Photographic proof that former **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE** artist Mark Bagley is raising his family right! Here are grandchildren Mark, Patricia and Ronan along with family friend Amos assembled as Earth's mightiest for a convention appearance in Atlanta!

Once in a while, we receive a letter like this one:

Dear Marvel,

I am not in the habit of writing letters like this, so if it gets a bit cumbersome, I apologize in advance. With the X-Men and Avengers battling it out, I know a lot of your heroes have been having a rough go and dealing with injuries as of late – I find myself in a similar situation and I'm writing to see if you'd be interested in helping me see my hero through a difficult time: my husband, Joe. He is a young attorney, student of philosophy, and huge Marvel fan. Like Luther Manning and Tony Stark before him, he is suffering from a painful spine injury. Unfortunately, unlike Manning and Stark, my husband does not have access to robotics or cybernetics (although he may end up with some surgical augmentations) to aid in his recovery. But he does have comics – the one thing he swears by to help him through the pain, misery, and malaise occasioned by a malfunctioning spine and the months of bed rest and rehab he has spent trying to repair his damaged body.

I know a lot of people have to deal with adversity – it's the rare hero/heroine who doesn't come from hard-luck circumstances – but I still believe my husband is exceptional. His origin story shares some parallels with Spider-Man: he grew up in extreme poverty; lost his father when he was still a boy; and worked hard to take care of his mother and special needs little sister. Always fiercely intelligent (probably somewhere on the spectrum between Beast and Professor X), he worked hard in school and became the first person in his family to go to college, where he continued to excel – graduating in the top 1% of his class with a triple major, no less. He then went on to study law at one of America's finest law schools. Inspired by his love for superheroes and tales of heroism, my husband has committed his life to fighting injustice. In college, he volunteered with nearly every on-campus organization that worked to help the needy, alleviate poverty, and remedy the wrongs in the world. He continued this work in law school. When he graduated, he did not choose to work at one of the big, high-paying law firms that were eager to employ him. He took a job with a small firm that promised him the ability to concentrate on his pro bono passions – helping refugees escape political persecution and assisting domestic violence victims with their myriad legal needs.

But then my hero suffered his first defeat: the firm that employed him was suffering some financial difficulties, so they decided they could no longer afford to expend their resources on philanthropy. My husband would not be so easily defeated. He returned to university, to further study legal philosophy and work on a book on the legal and philosophical aspects of fighting injustice. But alas, the fates continued to conspire against him. A simple twist of fate, a trip down a poorly lit staircase on a rainy night, has shattered my once strong hero. Since that night, his life has been pain, doctor's visits, and physical rehabilitation. The only thread of silver lining is that his newfound free time has allowed him to read a lot—which is fortunate for reading, especially comics, helps him keep his mind off the pain and the tumultuous situation we find ourselves in -- will he get better? Will he find gainful employment? Will he be able to continue our fight against injustice and poverty? Will our student loan financiers, in a bid to collect our sizeable student loan debts, hire a league of deadly mutant assassins? Tune in next week to find out.

My hope is to help my husband through this injury – and help him emerge stronger and more resolved because of this. Like a Phoenix from the ashes or Dr. Strange in the Himalayas. I was wondering if you could aid me in my quest – maybe donate some graphic novels, TPBs or any awesome Marvel gear to the cause? My husband never would ask for a handout, and he would be embarrassed if he knew I wrote this, but he has done so much for so many people, and now he needs some help and inspiration too. I thought I'd enlist some of the world's most important heroes to help my personal hero through this trying time.

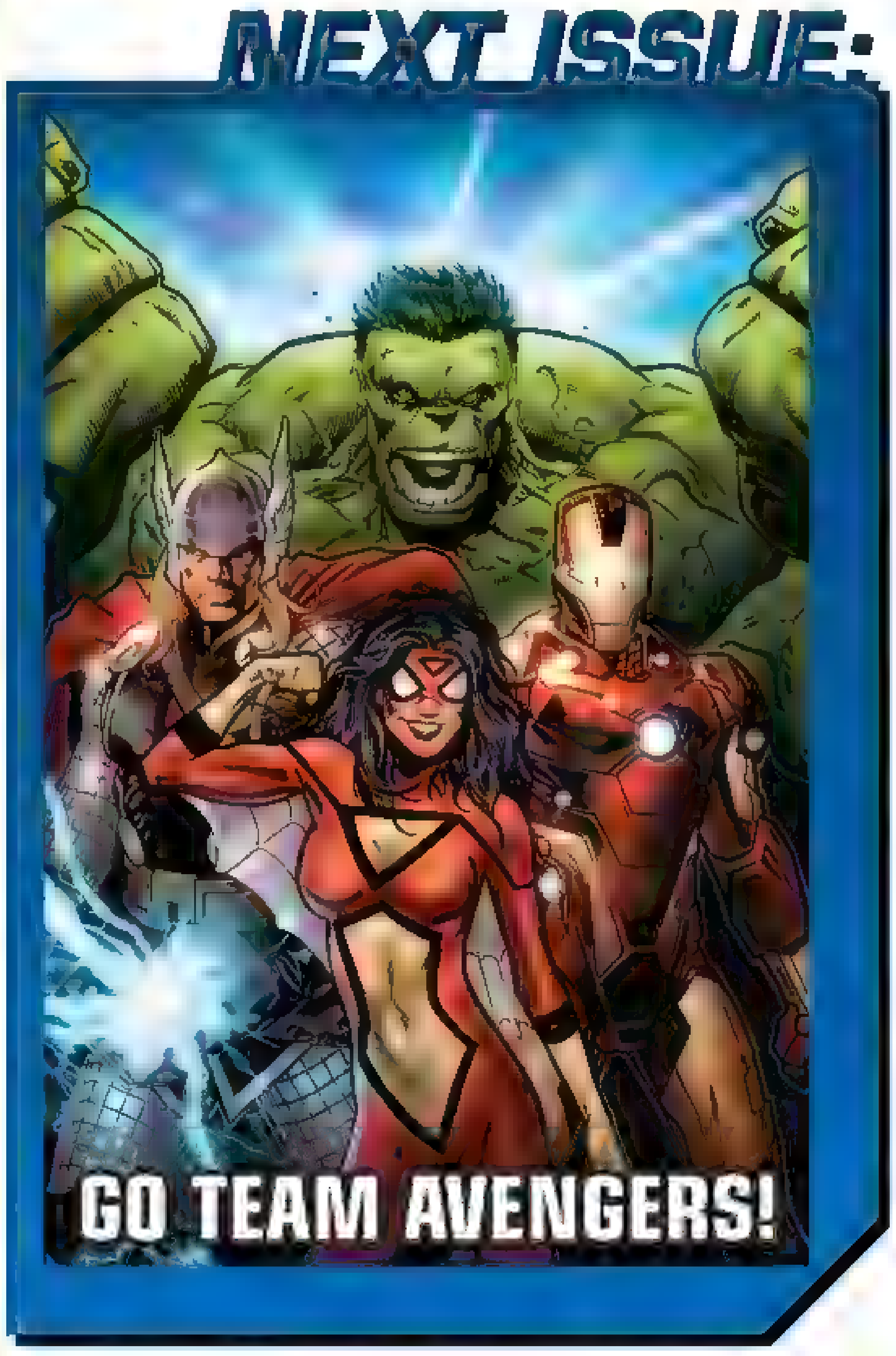
Thank you for your time and consideration and thank you for all the great stories over the years!

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth s. Snee

Elizabeth, by this point you should have received a massive care package from all of us at Marvel to share with your husband—here's to his speedy recovery! And if any Marvelites would like to send Joe some good wishes (or some comics) toss us an email here at Assembly central and consider yourselves No-Prized!

NEXT ISSUE:


GO TEAM AVENGERS!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

UNCANNY AVENGERS #2 ☐
BEWARE THE RED SKULL AND HIS UNHOLY S-MEN!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9 ☐
IT'S IRON MAN VERSUS THE HULK—AT SCIENCE!

AVENGERS #33 ☐
END TIMES! WHAT LURKS WITHIN THE MICROVERSE?

AVENGERS #34 ☐
END TIMES! THE RETURN OF AN AVENGER!

NEW AVENGERS #33 ☐
END TIMES! BESIEGED BY BOTH FRIEND AND FOE!

NEW AVENGERS #34 ☐
END TIMES! THE END OF AN AVENGER!

SECRET AVENGERS #34 ☐
PREPARE FOR CONTAGIOUS ROBOTIC EVOLUTION!

AVENGERS ACADEMY #39 ☐
SERIES FINALE! IT'S GRADUATION DAY!

DARK AVENGERS #183 ☐
IT'S DARK AVENGERS VS THUNDERBOLTS – TO THE END!

A + X #2 ☐
SPIDEY TEAMS UP WITH THE BEAST (HEY, AREN'T THEY BOTH AVENGERS?!), AND IRON MAN AND KITTY PRYDE TAKE ON THE BROOD!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE VS THE AVENGERS #2 ☐

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #8 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

IRON MAN #4
KIERON GILLEN
GREG LAND
THERE ARE SOME THINGS MAN WAS NOT MEANT TO KNOW ...
TONY'S HUNT FOR EXTREMIS CONTINUES!
MARVEL NOW!
DECEMBER 2012
#IRONMAN
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UNCANNY AVENGERS #1
RICK REMENDER • JOHN CASSADAY

AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE

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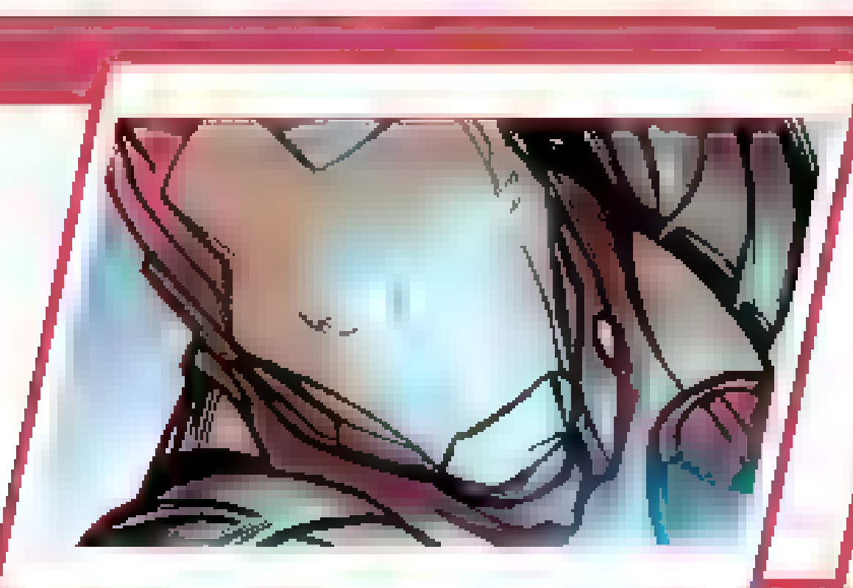
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE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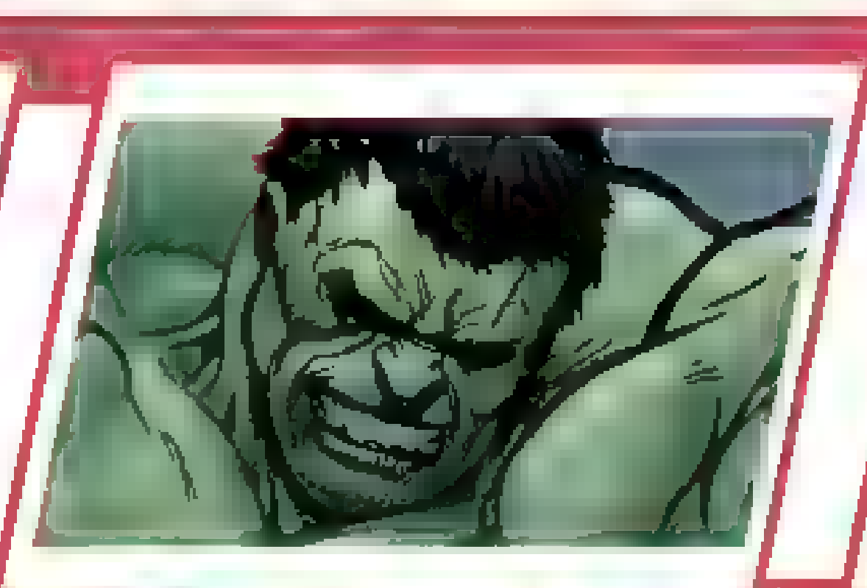
THE HULK
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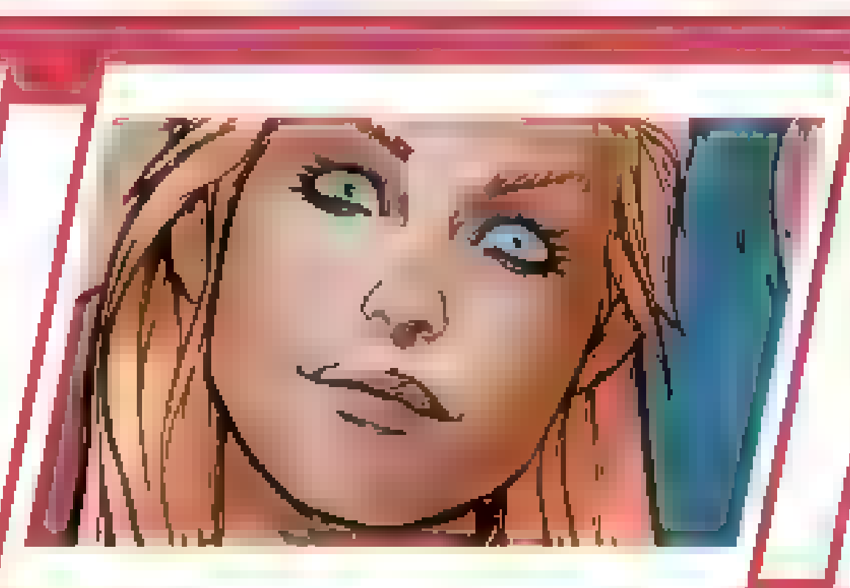
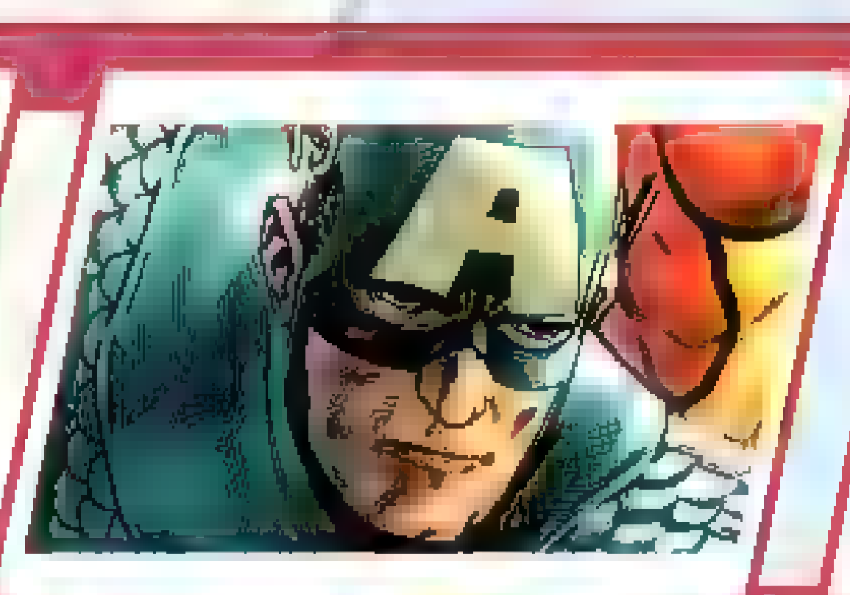
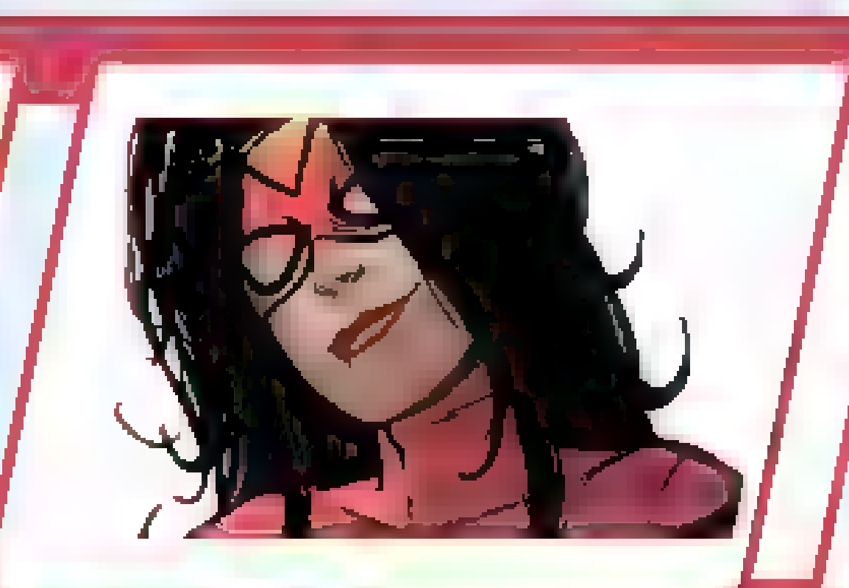
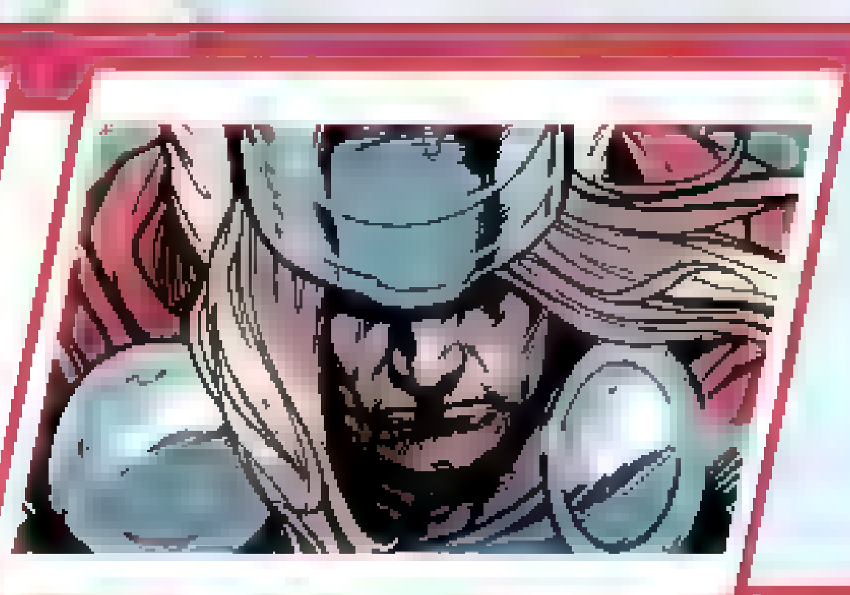
BRILLIANT MAN
GAMMA-CHARGED MONSTER


CAPTAIN MARVEL
CAROL DANVERS
FIGHTER PILOT
FLIES ZAPS PUNCHES


CAPTAIN AMERICA
STEVE ROGERS
SUPER-SOLDIER


SPIDER-WOMAN
JESSICA DREW
SPIDER-POWERED
SECRET AGENT


THOR
GOD OF THUNDER

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STEFANO **CASELLI**
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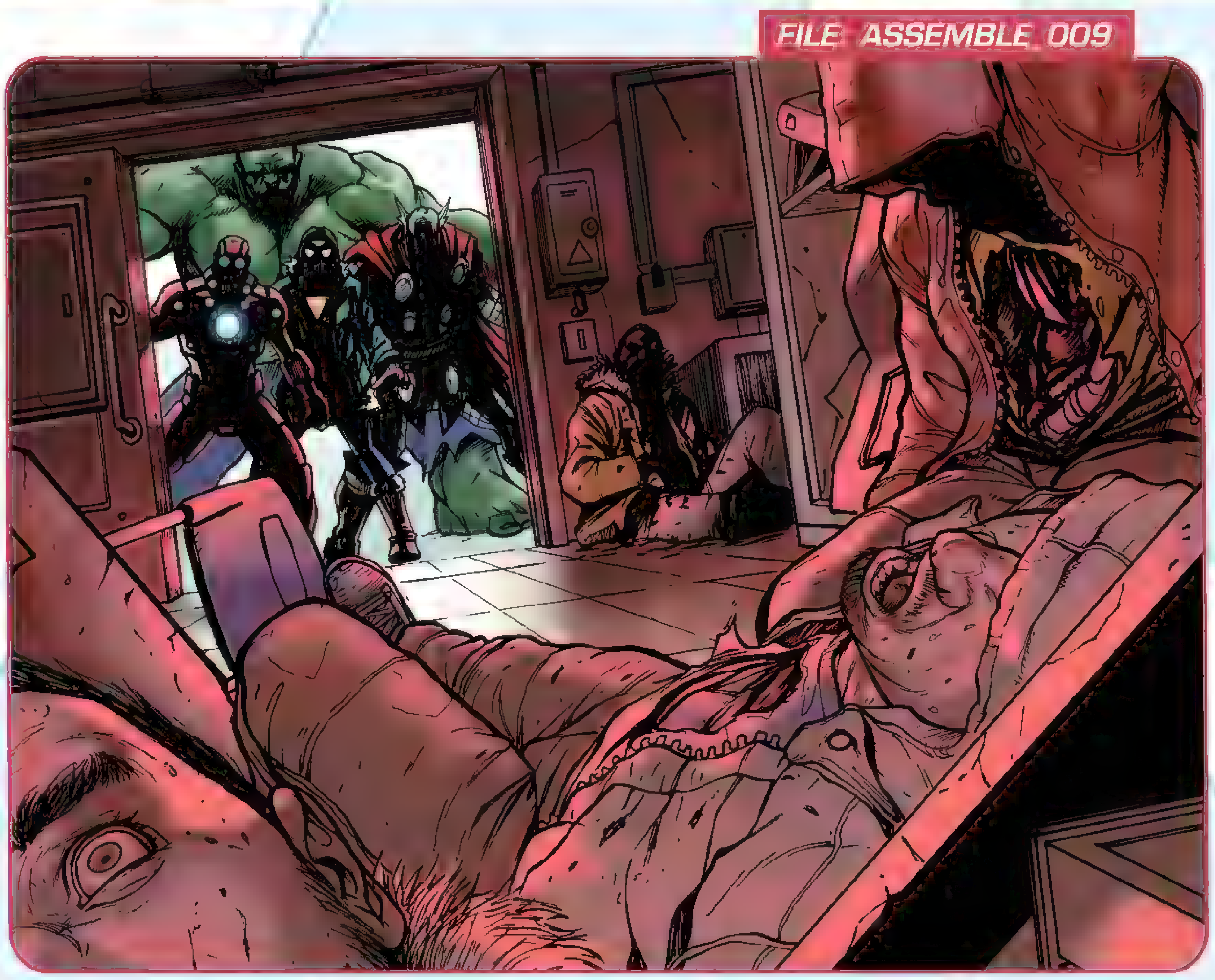

When a mutual associate of Dr. Bruce Banner (a.k.a. The Incredible Hulk) and Tony Stark (a.k.a. Iron Man) disappeared while researching a mysterious lake in Antarctica, the two super-geniuses made a bet to see who could get to the bottom of the mystery first. Banner partnered with Spider-Woman and Stark with Thor in a race to the bottom of the world, but the fun and games turned deadly serious when they found the science station full of monsters and eviscerated bodies!

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THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *FUN.*
TO GOAD US *PAST* OUR DIFFERENCES, TO *CELEBRATE* OUR COMPETITIVE SPIRITS AND THE *EXCELLENCE* INHERENT IN WHO WE *ARE...*
AND WHO WE CHALLENGE EACH OTHER *TO BECOME.*
INSTEAD, WE'RE BURYING BODIES.
SEEMS LIKE MORE AND MORE IT ENDS THIS WAY.
YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH... YEAH.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS?
I THINK...I THINK MAYBE YOU SHOULD HANDLE THIS PART. YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
AYE.
BRUCE AND I ARE GOING TO GO SEE IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE.

OKAY, WHAT HAVE WE GOT? A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS DRILLING DOWN TO A TWENTY-MILLION-YEAR-OLD LAKE...
...AND ENDING UP WITH THEIR GUTS ON THE OUTSIDE AND THEIR CAMP SURROUNDED BY... MONSTER-Y... THINGIES.
RRRGH...
WHEN A TODDLER HAS A FULL-BLOWN *TANTRUM*--ANY MOM WILL TELL YOU IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH THE KID HAS GONE *DEAF.*
CAN'T PROCESS INPUT. HE'S ISOLATED IN HIS RAGE.
THE NATURE OF THE WOUNDS SUGGESTS SOMETHING BURST OUT FROM THE INSIDE, POSSIBLY USING THESE GUYS AS INCUBATORS.
WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION--
HOW DID WHATEVER IT IS GET IN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WORKING WITH THE HULK IS LIKE WORKING WITH AN ANGRY TODDLER--ALBEIT A BIG ONE.
SIMPLEST WAY TO DOWNSHIFT A TANTRUM?
GET THE KID TO TAKE A COLD DRINK OF--
SOMEBODY'S CONNECTED THE PUMP APPARATUS TO THE CAMP'S PLUMBING.
IT'S IN THE WATER...!

DON'T DRINK THE WATER!
UH...
I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO DRINK THE WATER.
YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO DRINK THE WATER.
I DRANK THE WATER.
YEAH, YA DID.
HOW BIG A PROBLEM IS THIS?
GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT.
TONY, IT'S CAROL. WHAT'S THE LATEST?
BANNER JUST SWALLOWED A MONSTER.

ISN'T THAT WHAT HE DOES BEST?
LET'S HOPE. WHAT'VE YOU GOT?
YOUR MISSING SCIENTIST PAL, SERGEI...
SOROKIN. YOU GOT HIM?
HE'S A POSSIBLE PASSENGER ON AN UNAUTHORIZED TAKEOFF FROM BIRDSVILLE, AUSTRALIA, HEADED NORTH.
SEE IF YOU CAN INTERCEPT. WE'VE GOT SOME QUESTIONS FOR SERGEI.
CAP AND I ARE ALREADY ON OUR WAY.
AND TONY... I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR GAME.
MEH. WHO NEEDS FUN? IT WAS A DUMB IDEA.
LITTLE BIT.
WOULD YOU **PLEASE** SIT DOWN AND STRAP IN?
SORRY.
S'ALL RIGHT. BANNER'S ABOUT TO GET A HULK-SIZED CASE OF MONTEZUMA'S REVENGE, SO I ASSURE YOU, I'M BEING PUNISHED.
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'VE GOT SERGEI.
ON IT.

C-130 537 VICTOR, THIS IS THE QUINJET PARKED ON YOUR 3. I SUGGEST YOU TURN TO A HEADING OF ZERO-NINER-ZERO AND DROP YOUR LANDING GEAR...
RIGHT.
NOW.
A
MR. HAN, SIR, THE AVENGERS ARE ORDERING US TO LAND THE PLANE.
THIS IS VERY EXCITING! LITERALLY ON THE AVENGERS' RADAR. I FEEL I HAVE ARRIVED.
I DON'T LIKE THIS.
BIT LATE FOR "THIS WAS ALL A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING," SERGEI.
THE AVENGERS TEND TO LOSE THEIR SENSE OF HUMOR ABOUT THESE THINGS ONCE CIVILIANS GO AND START DYING.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO RESPONSE.
PLAN B.
YOU WERE HOPING FOR PLAN B.
YOU GOT ME. I DO LOVE PLAN B.
YOUR COMPATRIOTS AT CAMP VOSTOK. ONCE YOU WERE EXTRICATED, WE LEFT SOME CRACKERS LACED WITH THE CATALYST IN THEIR RATIONS AND CONNECTED THE DRILL TO THE WATER SUPPLY.
WE NEEDED EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM OUR THEORY.
HOW IS THAT NOT MURDER...?
WHEN IT'S SCIENCE. AND FRANKLY, IF THAT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOUR DELICATE CONSTITUTION, YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO CLOSE YOUR EYES...

"…NOW."
WHAT THE…?
HANG ON!

WHAT ARE THEY?
LET'S FIND OUT.
THEY'RE FIGHTING AT TEN THOUSAND FEET AND NOT REGISTERING FEAR!
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE *HUMAN*, FOR ONE THING THEY'RE--
TOO STROOO--
KRUSH

THEY'RE KILLING THEMSELVES!
THEY KILLED THEMSELVES A LONG TIME AGO. THEY KILLED THEMSELVES WHEN THEY HANDED OVER THE REINS OF THEIR LIVES TO A *SPOOKY STRANGER.*
REALLY, THIS IS DARWIN WRIT LARGE.
THEY'RE LITTLE MORE THAN *CHILDREN--*
AH AH AH!
AND A HAMBURGER IS LITTLE MORE THAN AN *INNOCENT COW.* DON'T LET YOUR SENTIMENTALITY CLOUD YOUR THINKING.
WHAT I HAVE DONE HAS GIVEN THEIR SACRIFICE *MEANING.*
"YOU SEE? TURNS OUT I AM A GOOD GUY AFTER ALL."

YOU READY?
READY.
HUAHH!
PLAN B.

THIS IS OUR PLAN? SALTY CRACKERS?
IT'S NOT OUR PLAN, IT'S OUR OPENING SALVO.
YOUR MOM NEVER GAVE YOU CRACKERS FOR A TUMMY ACHE?
NO. AND FROM MY UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR PARENTAGE, THE NOTION THAT ONE WOULD EMULATE--
OKAY, HI. I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU'RE THE GOD OF, BLONDIE, I AM TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW, IT IS AN UNWISE CHOICE TO FINISH THAT SENTENCE.
GRUMF.
HOW YOU DOIN' THERE, BUDDY?
N-N-N-NOT G-G-G-GOOD.

HELL-HELL-
HELL-HELL--
HELA IS BEHIND THIS? SHE OF THE NORTHERNMOST REALMS OF THE DEAD?!
NO, HE MEANS HE'S *IN HELL.* LIKE, IT HURTS. A LOT.
POOR GUY.
NO.
THE HELICARRIER.
HE'S GOT TO CHANGE INTO THE HULK TO KEEP FROM SPLITTING IN TWO, BUT ONCE HE DOES...
THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY REASONING WITH A HULK THAT'S GOT A PARASITE IN HIM THAT WANTS OUT.
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO THE SAFE CHAMBER ON THE HELICARRIER BEFORE HE CHANGES.
WHAT IF HE CHANGES EN ROUTE?
LET'S NOT LET THAT HAPPEN.
"HANG IN THERE, PAL..."

MORE BACON THAN THE PAN CAN HANDLE--!
CAP, I GOTTA SET THIS BIRD DOWN BEFORE IT FALLS ON SOMEBODY'S LAWN--
HANG IN THERE. I'LL BE BACK, MINUS THE METAL WINGS.
UNDERSTOOD...
I'LL BE HERE.

KRKK
I'M GOIN' IN. GIVE ME A TIMELINE. HOW FAR ARE YOU?
PRETTY FAR!
KRSHHH
STILL LOOKING FOR A SAFE PLACE TO PUT 'ER DOWN.
GOT ONE! YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN FOR A FEW MORE MINUTES.
PTT
WELL, ALL RIGHT THEN...

I'LL MAKE IT WORK.
HAAAA!
THONK
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO.

THIS IS JUST...
MORE OF THE SAME. THIS ISN'T GOING TO END WELL FOR ANYONE.
SERGEI SOROKIN?
ME? NO. NO, THAT'S HIM. HE WORKS FOR ME. MY NAME IS *YUN GUANG HAN,* AND I'M--
I DON'T CARE IF YOUR NAME IS TEDDY ROOSEVELT. I NEED YOU TO PUT THIS PLANE DOWN NOW. YOU TWO ARE--
THIS SUPER-SOLDIER THING--IS IT METABOLIC OR GENETIC? I MEAN, COULD YOU PASS IT ON TO YOUR OFFSPRING?
CAN YOU PRODUCE OFFSPRING?
I'M SORRY, IS THAT TOO PERSONAL?
MR. HAN, I WILL REPEAT MYSELF ONE TIME AND ONE TIME ONLY--
OH, PLEASE DON'T. I BORE EASILY.
I'LL SAVE US BOTH SOME TIME. THAT BOTTLE IN MR. SOROKIN'S HAND CONTAINS *BILLIONS* OF TWENTY-MILLION-YEAR-OLD BACTERIAL ORGANISMS...

THE FIRST BEINGS, CAPTAIN. THE STEM CELLS OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE CLAY OF NEW LIFE. A CLEAN SLATE FOR THE UNIVERSE. YOU FOLLOW?
I HAVE BOTTLES AND BOTTLES OF THIS STUFF, AND NO COMPUNCTION WHATSOEVER IN OPENING UP ONE OR TWO AND SEEDING THE CLOUDS OVER QUEENSLAND.
UNLESS?
UNLESS YOU SHOW YOURSELF OUT.
AND IF, BY SOME CHANCE, YOU SURVIVE THE FALL? TELL THE REST OF THE AVENGERS MY NAME IS *YUN GUANG HAN.*
I'M KIND OF A BIG DEAL.
THIS ISN'T OVER, HAN.
GOOD HEAVENS. I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

CAROL... I NEED A LIFT.
NOT A GOOD TIME, STEVE.
OKAY.
BWOOOOM

THAT WAS A LITTLE CLOSE.
HOW'D YOU KNOW I'D MAKE IT AT ALL?
I KNOW YOU.

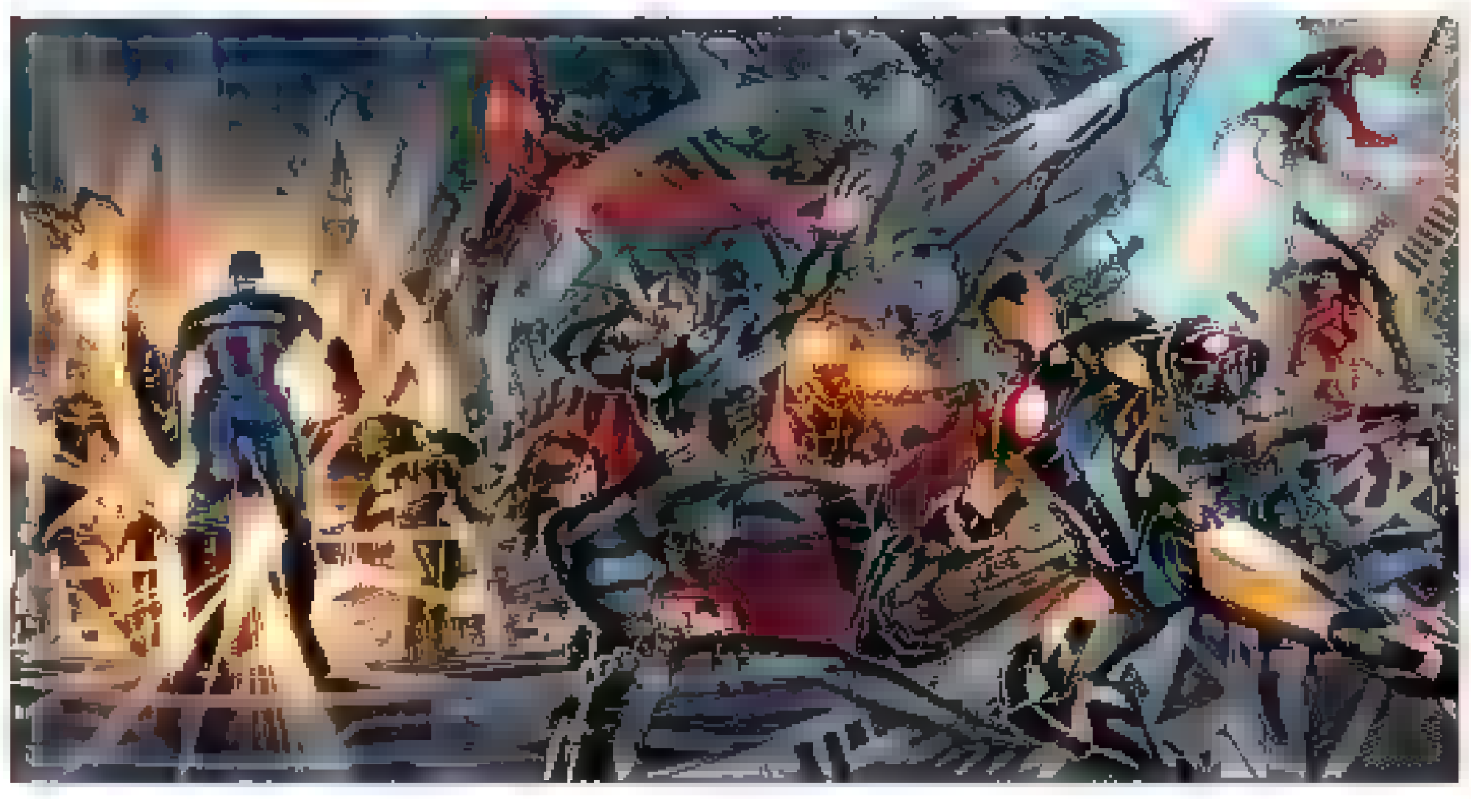
MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE HELICARRIER...
AHHHHHHHHH!
HERE.
WHAT'S THAT?
A HAIL MARY PASS IN THE FORM OF ENOUGH ANTIBIOTIC TO TREAT THE ENTIRE CAST OF JERSEY SHORE.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET HIM TO TAKE IT?
I'M NOT. YOU ARE... MS. I-CAN-CONTROL-THE-HULK.
HEY, BIG GUY...
REMEMBER ME?
YOU MADE ME A SANDWI--

GRAHHHHHH!!!
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

It's time for the Big One: **AVENGERS #1**, kicking off the era of Jonathan Hickman as Earth's Mightiest Author! Coming your way two times a month from now on, this new iteration will feature bigger threats, a bigger cast, and big ideas and idealism! And the artwork by kickoff men Jerome Opeña and Dean White is enough to make strong men weep! (And if that isn't enough for you, waiting in the wings for future twice-monthly installments are Adam Kubert, Dustin Weaver and Mike Deodato—no slouches to be found!) It's an Avengers World, baby!



Also making its debut this month is **AVENGERS ARENA #1**! For those fans who complain that Marvel has too many young heroes in our stable, Arcade is out to do something about it—by imprisoning sixteen of them on Murderworld Island and forcing them all to fight to the death! The referees are writer Dennis Hopeless and artist Kev Walker, all under the watchful eye of **AVENGERS ACADEMY** Dean of Students Bill Rosemann! So if you're a fan of Hazmat, Darkhawk, the Runaways, Mettle, Cammi and Nico-- or if you can't stand the sight of 'em--AVENGERS ARENA's got something you won't want to miss!

Introducing a new recurring feature here in the Assembly, it's time for the AVENGERS COSPLAY OF THE MONTH! This first entry was taken at this year's Dragon Con in Atlanta, renowned for the complexity and intensity of its cosplayers, where close to three-dozen (!!!) Avengers assembled for a series of group pictures! One thing's for certain: the efforts of these talented and dedicated fans puts Tom's old Ben Cooper Spider-Man outfit to shame!

Photo by Judy Stephens for Marvel.com

You know us, we've been on pins and needles wondering what your reaction to the debut of UNCANNY AVENGERS (not to mention the start of MARVEL NOW!) would be like! And then, we received this letter:

MARVEL's Uncanny
Avengers
Really is
Very
Exciting!
Loved the ending!

Reed Beebe
Kansas City, MO

Thanks for writing, Reed! Issue #3 will hit the stands before you know it later this month! And hey, everybody else: we'd love to hear from you! Let us know what's on your mind at the email address below!

Finally, we thought that you guys might like to read this follow-up on the letter we printed last month:

Dear Lauren, Tom, Arune and the rest of the Marvel Universe,

Wow! This is Spectacular/Amazing/Ultimate! First of all, thank you so much—your kindness & generosity is touching. As my wife has relayed, I've been having a tough go as of late; but today, if I shed any tears, they are of joy & exuberance. Your magnanimity & generosity speak volumes of your incredible characters & provide further evidence that the Marvel Universe is full of marvelous people! Seriously, thank you!

Through this difficult ordeal, Marvel comics have been a constant source of entertainment & inspiration. When you are stuck in bed for months at a time, a good story provides some much needed relief. So, again, thank you! The wonderful mountain of books you have sent me will help me further stock my Sanctum Sanctorum (which is actually my old bedroom at my mom's place)—every comic I read, poster and picture I tack on my wall, action figure I pose on my desk, and DVD and video game I cue up, help make this experience a little better and keep me resolved to get better and get back to doing what I enjoy most—helping people overcome injustice. So, per your communication with my lovely wife, I'd love to hear from other Marvelites! Well wishes and words of encouragement are always welcome—I can be reached at Mr.Joseph.V.Snee@gmail.com. And if anyone wants to send me more comics (or anything else for that matter) they are more than welcome!

The generous gift and your kind words will keep me busy reading and happy for a long time to come already, though!

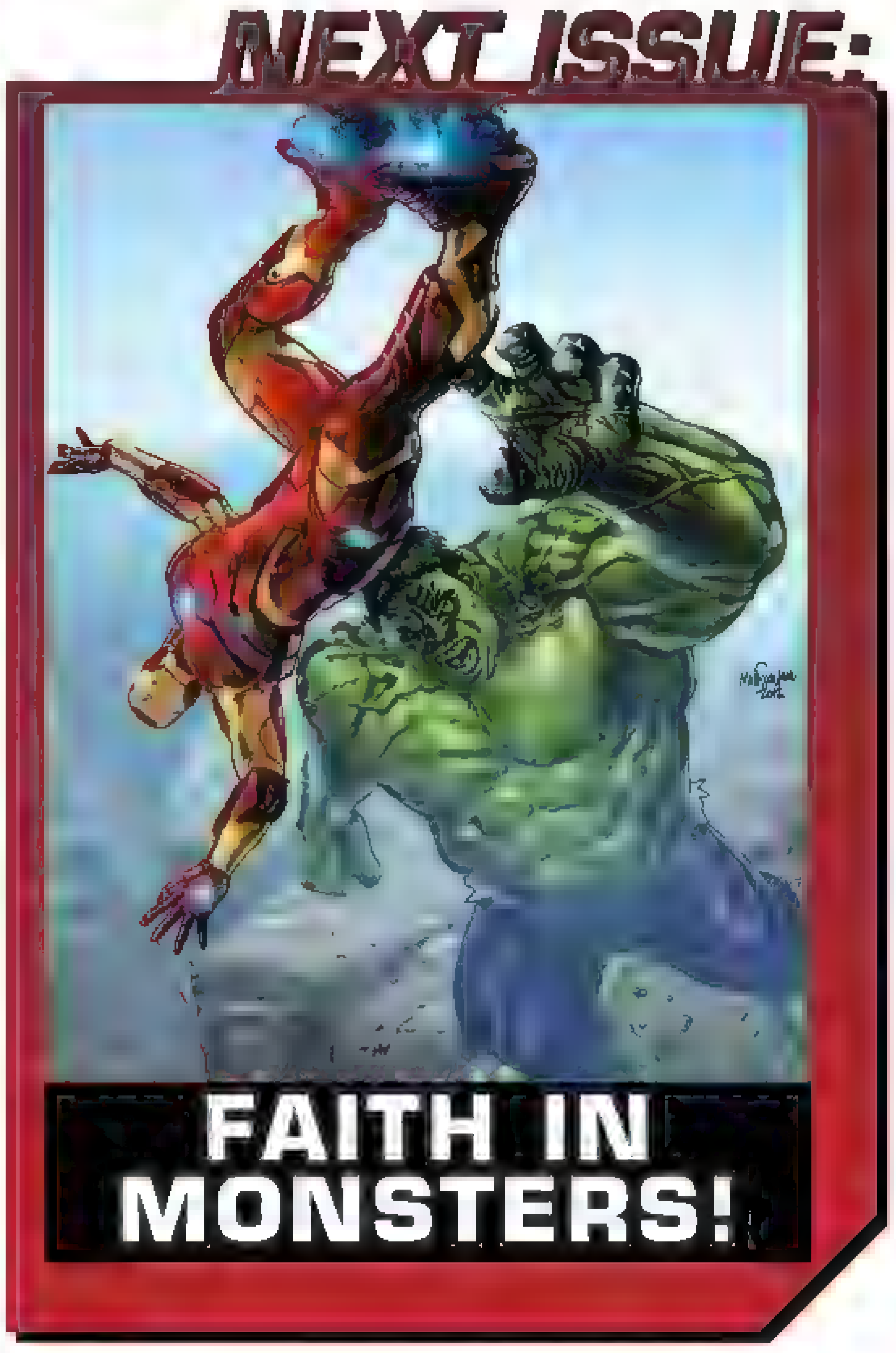
Before I conclude, I'd just like to publicly thank my amazing wife.

She is too kind. I really had no idea she was doing this, and I am amazed and humbled. What a touching letter. It's hard to believe it's about me. You know, I feel like I'm a Peter Parker type guy, and to know that she sees my inner Spider-Man-well, I think I'll just bask in that for a while. I am very grateful she reached out to you guys and gals, I am very pleased to make your acquaintance and very grateful of your kindness. I've been a Marvel fan since I figured out how to read, and I will continue forever more. Some folks pass their love of baseball or politics on to their kids, I'll be passing down my love of the Marvel Universe! Once again, thanks so much!

Respectfully yours,
Joe Snee

Seems like the least we could do, Joe, for somebody who's kept the faith as devoutly as you have! Get better, now, hear? We're all pulling for you!

NEXT ISSUE:


FAITH IN MONSTERS!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

UNCANNY AVENGERS #3 ☐
THE RED SKULL MAKES HIS MOVE!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #10 ☐
WHAT BEGAN AS A GAME BECOMES A LIFE-OR-DEATH STRUGGLE!

AVENGERS #1 ☐
A NEW ERA BEGINS!

AVENGERS #2 ☐
WHAT LURKS WITHIN THE GARDEN ON MARS?

SECRET AVENGERS #35 ☐
ONLY THE SECRET AVENGERS REMAIN TO OPPOSE THE ROBOTIC REVOLUTION!

AVENGERS ARENA #1 ☐
SIXTEEN SUPERHUMAN YOUNG ADULTS MUST FIGHT TO SURVIVE!

AVENGERS ARENA #2 ☐
WHO OR WHAT IS DEATHLOCKET?

DARK AVENGERS #184 ☐
WHAT FORCE CAN TURN EARTH'S DEADLIEST VILLAINS INTO HEROES?

A + X #3 ☐
SPIDEY TEAMS UP WITH THE BEAST (HEY, AREN'T THEY BOTH AVENGERS?!) AND HAWKEYE AND GAMBIT SAVE LIVES!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE VS THE AVENGERS #3 ☐

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #9 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

KELLY SUE DeCONNICK

MARVEL NOW!

STEFANO CASELLI

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

011

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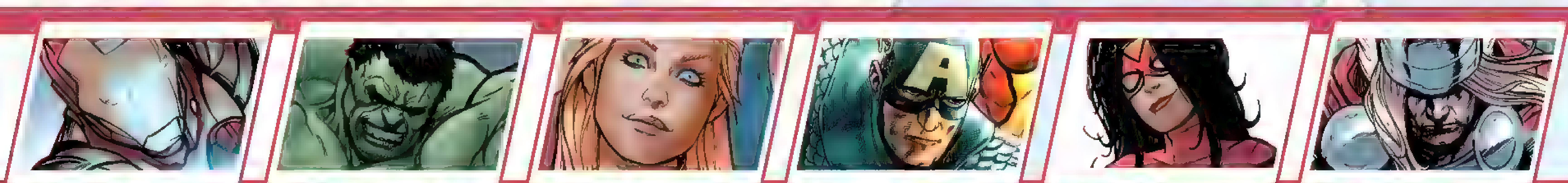
AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE



IRON MAN
TONY STARK
BILLIONAIRE TECHNOLOGIST
HIGH-TECH ARMOR

THE HULK
BRUCE BANNER
BRILLIANT MAN
GAMMA-CHARGED MONSTER

CAPTAIN MARVEL
CAROL DANVERS
FIGHTER PILOT
FLIES, ZAPS, PUNCHES

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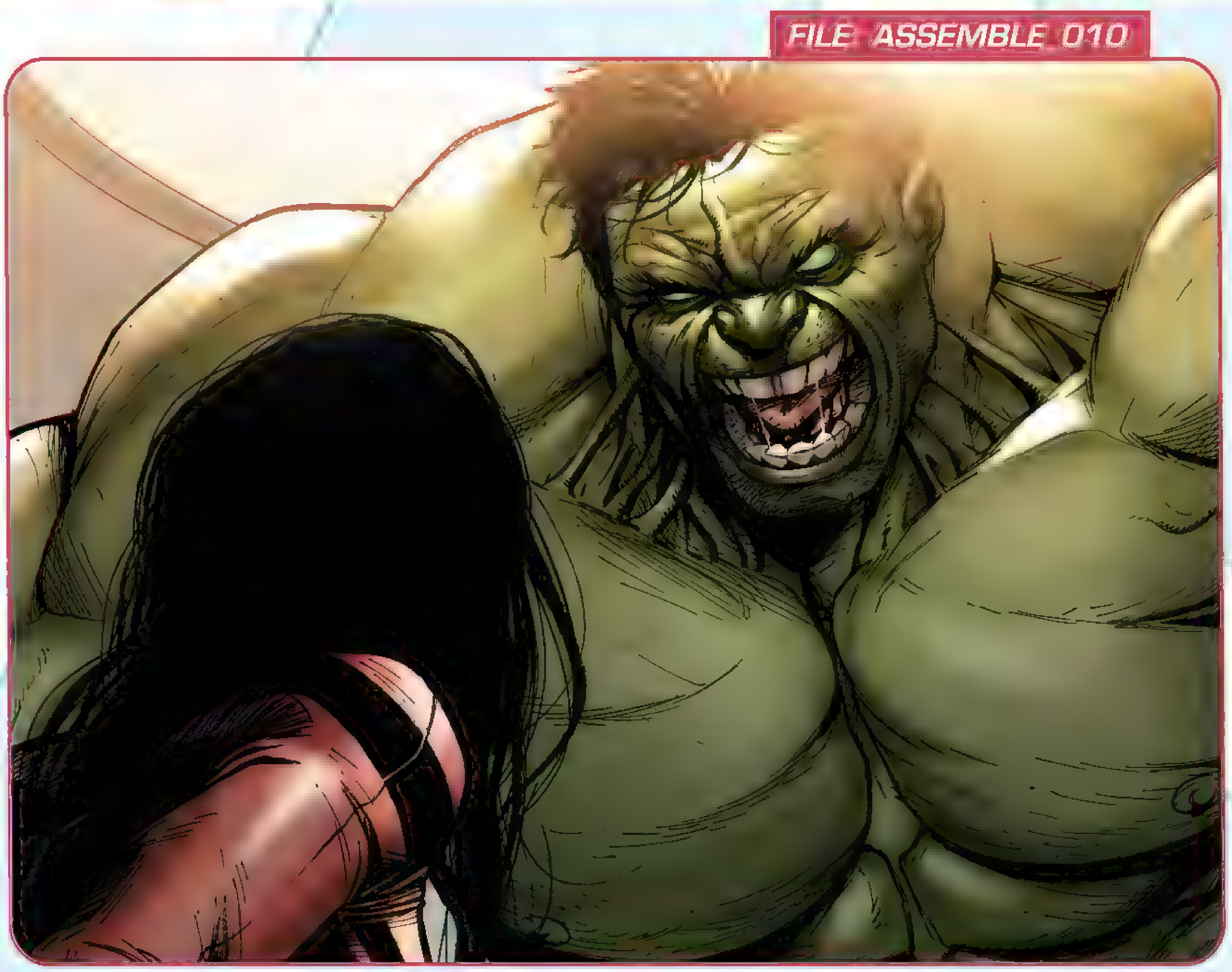

When a mutual acquaintance, scientist Sergei Sorokin, went missing, Bruce Banner and Tony Stark made a friendly wager over who could find him first, roping in Spider-Woman and Thor as partners. The bet took a turn for the sinister, however, when they found a research facility in Antarctica full of bodies and an artificial bacteria that kills its host or turns them into monsters. Captains Marvel and America joined the hunt and found Sorokin, but also the villainous plot's mastermind, Yun Guang Han. Forced to retreat, they began to make their way towards the rest of the Avengers, who were dealing with their own problem–an infected Hulk.

SPECIAL THANKS TO **JAMAIS CASCIO**

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NOT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO, I WAS PRACTICALLY HIS PET. NOW HE SEES ME LIKE THIS...
...AS A *THREAT.*
WHICH IS SO FAR FROM THE *TRUTH* THAT MY *BIG GREEN FRIEND* MIGHT ACTUALLY BE RUNNING FOR CONGRESS.
POOR THING'S *PERSPECTIVE* GOT SKEWED BY THE TWENTY-MILLION-YEAR-OLD *BACTERIA* REENACTING *EVOLUTION* IN HIS GUT.
RRRRRR...
RAAAA!
IF I HAD TO CHANGE INTO A MONSTER TO KEEP MY INSIDES *ON THE INSIDE...*
...I'D BE PISSED OFF, TOO.
BUT IF BRUCE BANNER IS TO STAND A *CHANCE* OF SURVIVING THIS, I NEED TO HIT THE HULK WITH THIS ANTIBIOTIC--*SOON.*
WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME FOR MY *PHEROMONE POWERS* TO PROVE THEY'RE GOOD FOR MORE THAN A FREE LUNCH.

SMASHHHH
COME ON, COME ON, COME ON, COME ON...TAKE A DEEP BREATH, BIG GUY...
IN WITH THE PINK AIR...
...OUT WITH THE BLACK.

THAT'S THE WAY, BIG FELLA...
THAAAAAAAAT'S IT...COME TO MAMA.
AHHHHHH!
BRUCE...? BUDDY? YOU IN THERE...?
GET... OUT...

GONGXIAN COUNTY, SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA.
"TONY, IT'S CAROL."
"CAP-I-TAN. TELL ME YOU FOUND SERGEI, PLEASE."
"WE FOUND HIM... BUT WE HAD TO LET HIM GO."
"YOU WHAT?"
"WE ABANDONED PURSUIT. CAP'LL FILL YOU IN LATER.
"RADAR CONTINUED TRACKING THE PLANE UNTIL--GET THIS--IT WENT *POOF* OVER THE HANGING COFFINS OF GONGXIAN COUNTY, CHINA."
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, 'WENT POOF?' CLOAK OR CRASH?"
"DUNNO. SUGGEST RENDEZVOUS AT THE SITE."
"SOUNDS GOOD. YOU'LL PROBABLY BEAT US THERE--"
THAT'S A NEGATIVE. WE HAD TO MAKE A DETOUR TO PICK UP REPLACEMENT TRANSPORT. YOU'LL HAVE A HEAD START.
DO I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE QUINJET YOU HAD?
NO, YOU REALLY DO NOT.
HE MOST *CERTAINLY* DOES NOT.

YUN GUANG HAN--
BEFORE YOU LAUNCH INTO THE BIT ABOUT HOW YOU *QUIT* AND YOU'D LIKE YOUR *MONEY* AND A RIDE OUT OF HERE AND WHATNOT...
...MIGHT I OFFER YOU A DRINK?
NO. THANK YOU.
BRING US ANOTHER, PLEASE.
THE AVENGERS WILL HAVE TRACKED THE PLANE.
YES! A MINI-PLATOON OF BIOLOGICALLY SUPERIOR BEINGS HEADED RIGHT FOR OUR FRONT DOOR.
BEST PART IS, I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO PAY SHIPPING.
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
NO? CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED.
YOU ARE NOT AS BRIGHT AS I'D HOPED.

"THE 'STEM CELL' BACTERIA YOU WERE SO EXCITED ABOUT WAS SUPPOSED TO ALLOW ME TO GROW MY OWN SUPER-EVOLUTIONARY ARMY--
"AN ARMY I WOULD THEN USE TO TAKE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE ON THE WORLD STAGE AND PUT FORWARD MY PLAN FOR HUMANITY'S SURVIVAL IN THE COMING APOCALYPSE."
WAS THAT SUCH A TALL ORDER, REALLY?
INSTEAD? EXCUSES! MULTITUDES OF EXCUSES! EXPENSIVE EXCUSES!
"'I NEED A CATALYST!' FINE. I GOT YOU A CATALYST.
"'THE HOMUNCULUS CAN'T SURVIVE OUR ENVIRONMENT LONG-TERM!' FINE. I GOT YOU HOSTS."
"THE HOSTS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH!" FINE. I PURCHASED A GENETIC MODIFIER FOR THE HOSTS.
WHERE IS MY ARMY, SERGEI?!

FOR *YEARS,* YOU'VE BEEN BLEEDING ME FOR CASH YOU'VE FUNNELED INTO SIDE PROJECTS... STRINGING ME ALONG LIKE I'M A *FOOL.*
YOU ARE THE FOOL. NOW, THE UNIVERSE DELIVERS TO MY DOOR A SET OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES, *EACH* POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MAKE AN EXQUISITE HOST.
WHEN THEY ARRIVE, I WILL FLOOD THE VALLEY WITH THIS BACTERIA-RICH WATER, ADD THE CATALYST, AND WAIT FOR THE AVENGERS TO INFECT THEMSELVES AS THEY ATTEMPT TO RESCUE THE VILLAGERS.
WHOEVER SURVIVES WILL BE AT MY MERCY. I'LL CAPTURE AND CLONE AND I WILL, *AT LAST,* HAVE MY ARMY.
WHO DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE? HULK? HULK'S A GOOD BET. THOR? MAYBE THOR.
YOU CAN'T CLONE A GOD.
HOW DO YOU *KNOW,* SERGEI? DID YOU EVER TRY?
AND WHY WOULD YOU TAKE A DRINK FROM SOMEONE YOU KNOW WANTS TO KILL YOU...?
WH-WHAT...?
YOU DRANK THE *CATALYST,* SERGEI.
AHHHH!
AHHHH!
IDIOT. YOU COULD HAVE HAD A FRONT ROW SEAT...

"...INSTEAD, YOU'RE GOING TO MISS THE SHOW."

WERE THERE A CRASH, ONE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE DEBRIS.
YES, ONE WOULD.
LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT HIDING INSIDE THOSE CLIFFS?
THERE'S SOME KIND OF BUNKER DOWN THERE...COMPLETE WITH A RESERVOIR.
BIOLOGICAL WARFARE.
SOROKIN IS WORKING WITH A LUNATIC BY THE NAME OF YUN GUANG HAN...
WANTS US TO KNOW HE'S "KIND OF A BIG DEAL."
OH, GOOD. I LOVE IT WHEN THEY'RE GRANDIOSE.
HE'S CULTURED THE BACTERIA FROM VOSTOK. THINKS HE'S GOING TO USE IT TO REMAKE HUMANITY.
SOMETHING ABOUT STEM CELLS AND CLAY. I COULDN'T QUITE FOLLOW THE CRAZY.
THERE WAS A STUDY ON MICE SUGGESTING THAT CERTAIN INTESTINAL FLORA RAMP UP SURVIVAL INSTINCTS, CONTROL ELEMENTS OF PERSONALITY...
BUT THE BACTERIA FROM VOSTOK OVERPOWERED THEIR HUMAN HOSTS...
YOU'D NEED...
CAPTAIN AMERICA
CAPTAIN MARVEL
SPIDER-WOMAN
HULK
THOR
OH, NO...
...SUPERIOR HOSTS.

NOW THAT WE'RE ALL TOGETHER...
CHK
"...HERE COMES THE GOOD PART."
WE'VE GOT ABOUT NINETY SECONDS BEFORE THAT POISON REACHES THE VILLAGERS!
ON IT. THOR! YOU AND I--
--NO! I'LL GO. THE SUIT'S A SEALED SYSTEM. I CAN'T--
ALL DUE RESPECT? INSIDE THAT SUIT YOU'RE JUST SOME GENIUS.
THOR'S A GOD, AND I CAN TAKE A LASER BLAST TO THE FACE.
SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK A TUMMY BUG IS MUCH OF A PROBLEM.
'ZAT SO? WANNA HEAR WHAT THAT "TUMMY BUG" DID TO THE HULK?
...
THE HULK!

WE HAVE TO DROP THE HULK.
HE'S ALREADY BEEN INFECTED. IF ANYONE STANDS A--
I'M SORRY--WE WHAT?
WE'RE DROPPING THE CHAMBER TO FORM A DAM.
LIKE HELL WE ARE! HE'S STILL FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE IN THERE, WE CAN'T JUST--
JESSICA, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE! WE HAVE TO DO THIS RIGHT NOW.
HE'S NOT A THING! WE DON'T THROW HIM LIKE A FRISBEE! HE GETS TO CHOOSE!
HE DIDN'T DECIDE TO BECOME THE HULK...
...BUT HE GETS TO DECIDE WHAT THE HULK BECOMES.
YOU CHOOSE, BIG GUY...
HUUUULK... CHOOSE...

"...AVENGER!"
SPLOOSH
笨蛋, 不要看! 跑! 隕光罕會用棺材殺死人!
我的羊呀!
KRAKKK
RAAAAAAAA!

KWISHH
WE CAN'T LET HIM DO THIS ALONE. WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET WET.
NAY. FIRST, WE MUST ATTEND TO THE VILLAGERS. IT IS OURS TO VANQUISH THE TAINTED WATERS.
OH YEAH? WHAT'S YOUR PLAN? SUCK IT UP AND SPIT IT INTO SPACE?
AYE, CAPTAIN...
AS YOU *WISH!*
VOOOOSH

WELL, AREN'T YOU CLEVER?
SUCK IT UP IN A CYCLONE WIND, THEN HAUL IT UP HERE TO MAKE IT FREEZE...
NOT BAD...
FOR A BLOND.

KRRRRRNK
HAN'S HERE *SOMEWHERE.* BIG AS HIS EGO IS, HE'LL WANT TO SEE ALL THIS HIMSELF!
WHERE'S PAPA, HOT STUFF?
THERE!

HEH, HEH. HEH.
YOU THINK YOU'VE WON?
YOU MAY OVERPOWER THIS BODY, BUT YOU WILL NEVER CONTAIN MY MIND.
WE ARE MEN OF SCIENCE, MR. STARK. WE MEET ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF IDEOLOGY.
THIS IS NOT OVER! THE MICROBES HAVE BEEN RELEASED! YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT DELAY MY INEVITABLE--
THWKK
THOOM
SURE LOOKS LIKE IT'S OVER TO ME.
AVENGERS, PAL. WE'RE KIND OF A BIG DEAL, TOO.

AVENGERS TOWER.
ICE CREAM. FOR BREAKFAST. WHAT FLAVOR?
DESPAIR. WITH CARAMEL. AND WALNUTS.
WANNA TALK ABOUT IT?
ICE CREAM? YES, FOREVER. THIS IS BLUE BELL. JESSICA HAD A CASE OVERNIGHTED FROM A LITTLE CREAMERY IN...
SIGH
HULK CAN'T SMASH A VIRUS. OR PUNCH A DRUG. OR GRIND OUT THE KIND OF MISFORTUNE THAT PUTS GOOD PEOPLE AT THE MERCY OF MONSTERS LIKE YUN.
NO, BUT WHAT THE HULK CAN'T DO, DR. BANNER CAN. HOW MANY LIVES DO YOU FIGURE YOU'VE CHANGED-- OR SAVED EVEN-- THROUGH YOUR WORK?
I DON'T KNOW. NOT ENOUGH.
YES, OUR ENEMIES ARE EVOLVING. SO ARE WE!
YES, IT FEELS LIKE THE WORLD IS GETTING WORSE--BUT HERE'S THE THING--
IT ISN'T.
IT IS A VERIFIABLE FACT, SUPERIOR SCIENCE GUY, THAT THERE ARE FEWER WARS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE WORLDWIDE NOW THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN HUMAN HISTORY.
DISEASES THAT BURNED THROUGH CONTINENTS LIKE WILD FIRES-- WIPED OUT! PEOPLES WHO USED TO BE TREATED LIKE PROPERTY NOW GOVERN THEMSELVES.
AND EVEN IF ALL THAT WEREN'T TRUE?
YOU'D STILL SHOW UP AND FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. YOU KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE I'M AN IRREPRESSIBLE OPTIMIST...?
BECAUSE YOU'RE AN AVENGER. AND AVENGERS DON'T LIMIT THEMSELVES TO FIGHTS THEY KNOW THEY CAN WIN.
GOOD MORNING, LOSERS!

DROP YOUR PANTS.
I'M SORRY, WHAT DID YOU SAY?
THE BET! YOU **LOST**. YOU OWE US ALL ONE NAKED WALK OF SHAME, FROM THE TOWER TO THE BAXTER BUILDING-- AND BACK.
WAIT, **WHO** LOST?
YOU **BOTH** DID, BUB.
WHAAAAAT...?
THE **CHALLENGE** WAS TO BE THE FIRST TO FIND SOROKIN. YOU DIDN'T FIND SOROKIN...
WE DID.
THOR AND I PROPOSE THAT AS OUR **LEADERS**, YOU TWO SHOULD REPRESENT THE LOSING TEAMS.
ALL IN FAVOR, SAY THEE **AYE**.
AYE.
AYE.
AYE.
AYE.
AYE.
AYE.

HI, THERE! TONY STARK! HOW'S IT GOING?
YOU KNOW, I DO NOT RECALL EVER SEEING THIS MANY PEOPLE OUT AND ABOUT THIS TIME OF THE MORNING.
I CAN'T HELP BUT GET THE FEELING...
YOU SET THEM UP.
WHAT? ME? NO. BUT IT SURE DOES SEEM LIKE *SOMEONE* MUST'VE CALLED THE *RADIO* OR *SOMETHING.*
THAT WAS COLD.
LITTLE BIT. I'M OKAY WITH IT. YOU?
AYE.
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY PHONE.
HULK NOT WANT PICTURES ON INTERWEBS!
DON'T SWEAT IT, BIG GUY. I'VE GOT--
--HE'S GOT A HIGH-POWERED CELL PHONE JAMMER IN HIS RIGHT HAND.
WELL THAT EXPLAINS IT. WHAT A BUMMER.
RELAX. WE GOT THIS.
SAY CHEESE!
SHKK

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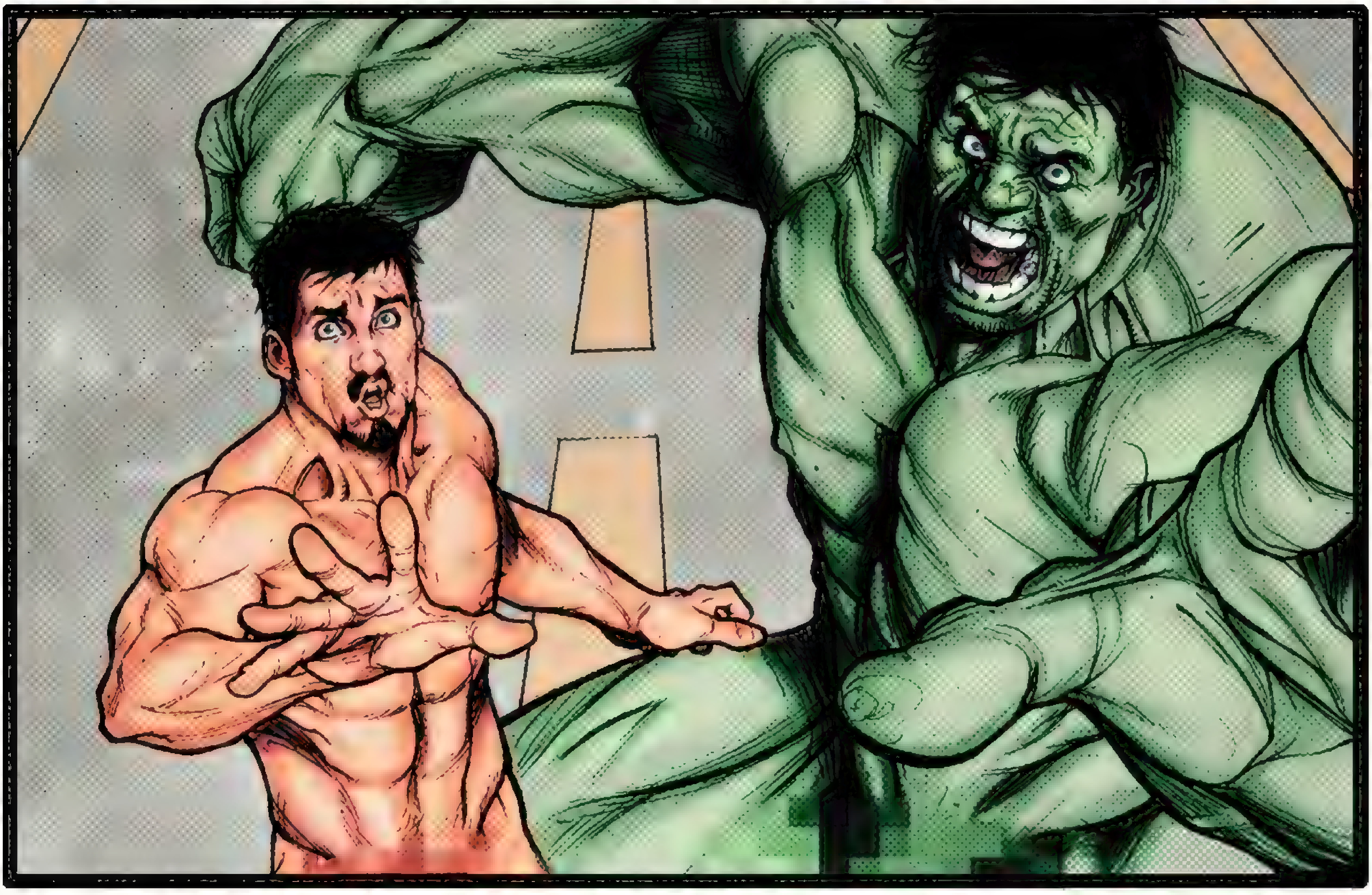


Celebrity Avengers bare souls and MORE. Fined for public indecency over wager gone awry, Stark makes donation matching fine to CDC.

By NE'ER CASCIO
Staff Writer

NEW YORK — 1/16/13 — (Reuters) — Commuters and shoppers along Broadway certainly got more than they bargained for in the early hours of Tuesday morning. According to witnesses interviewed by the Bugle, Avengers "the Hulk" and Tony Stark (a/k/a "Iron Man"), oft lauded for putting themselves at risk, were instead putting themselves on display.

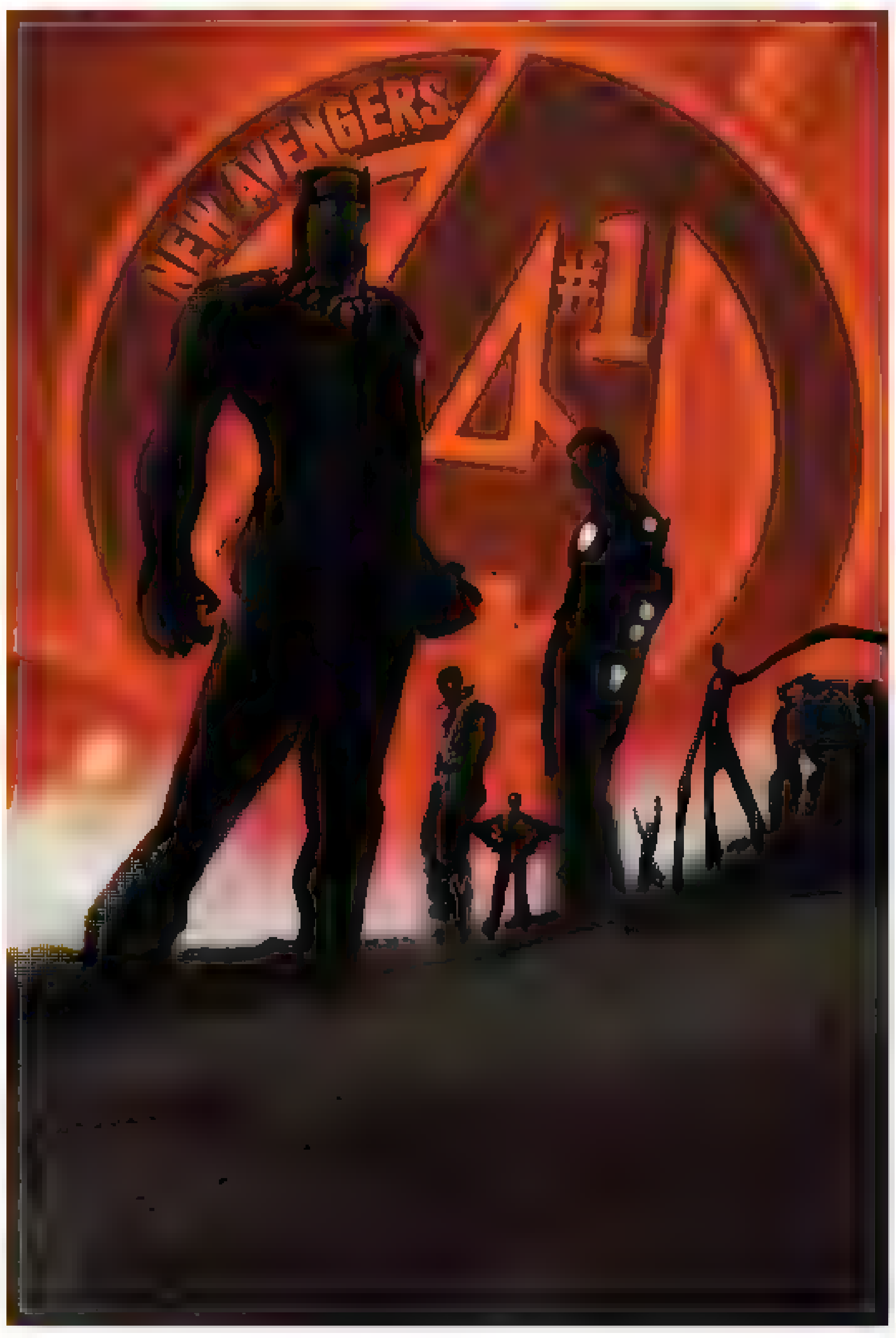
The act of public indecency (both men were cited) was apparently the result of a wager gone wrong. A spokesperson for the Avengers organization issued an apology on behalf of… (CONT'D)

Opinion - A4: What can't super-powered stars buy their way out of?

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

The hits just keep on coming with no sign of abating, and this month is no exception! The big story for January is the relaunch of **NEW AVENGERS**, now in the hands of scribe Jonathan Hickman and illustrator Steve Epting! Last time these guys got together, they killed the Human Torch and reinvented the Fantastic Four—so you can just imagine what they have in store for the Black Panther and the mysterious, clandestine Illuminati! It's only the end of not just our world, but every world—and it's coming your way twice this month to kick the series off in style!



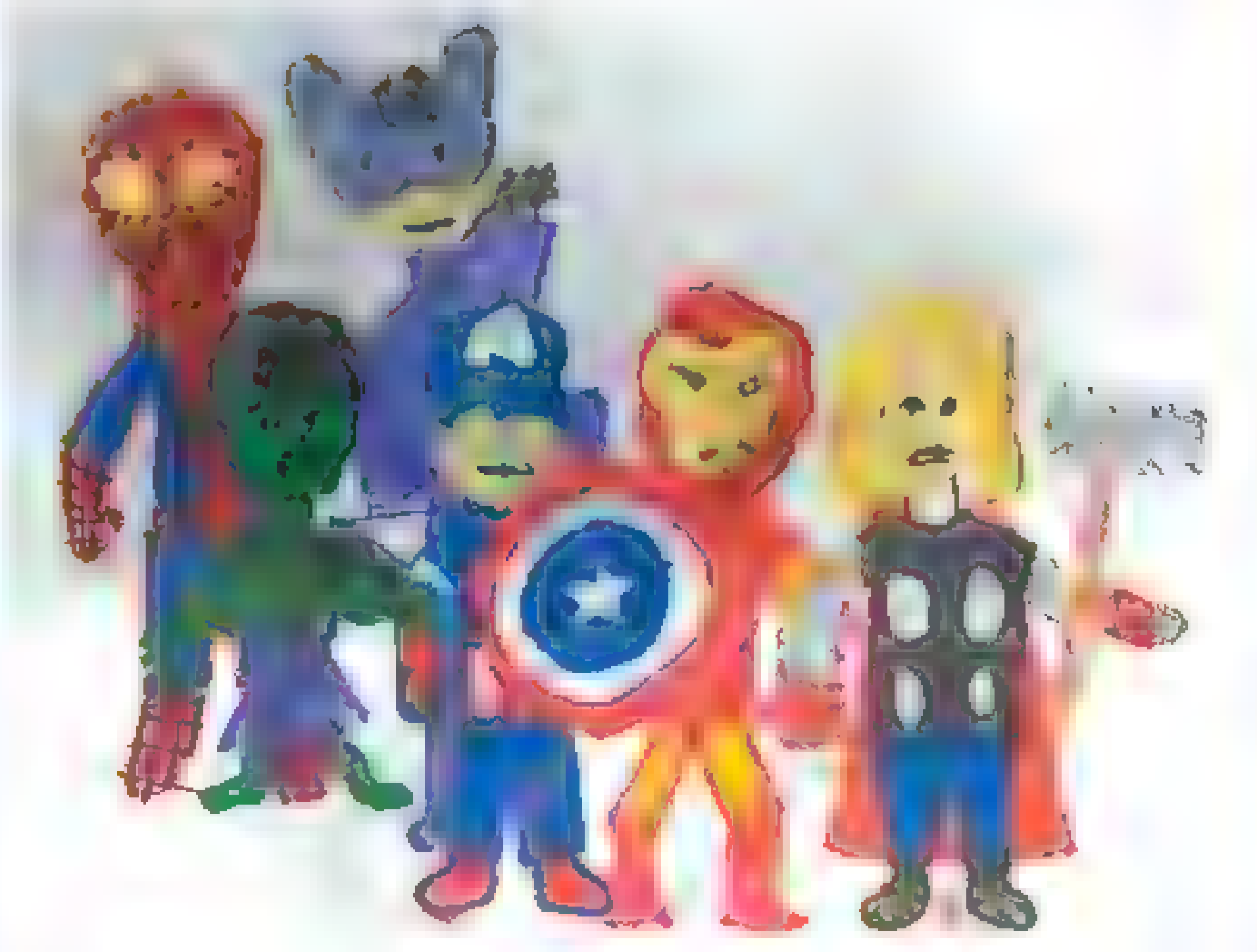
Also back in the spotlight this month is **YOUNG AVENGERS**, getting its own sparkly new first issue (with an in-demand variant by Scott Pilgrim's Bryan Lee O'Malley!) But this isn't quite the Young Avengers that you know—creators Kieron Gillen, Jamie McKelvie, Mike Norton and Matthew Wilson have mixed in some new faces along with the old! So be on the lookout for Loki, Marvel Boy, and Miss America as well as Hulkling, Wiccan and Hawkeye—in **YOUNG AVENGERS #1**!

One of the best things about being in this business is getting letters like this one!

Dear Marvel,

The first Marvel comic I got was the Avengers. I really liked it so I started getting more. I love to draw the Marvel super heroes and they've inspired me to make my own super hero team. For this drawing, I decided to make the faces out of plasticine for a more 3-D effect. I hope you like it. Thank you.

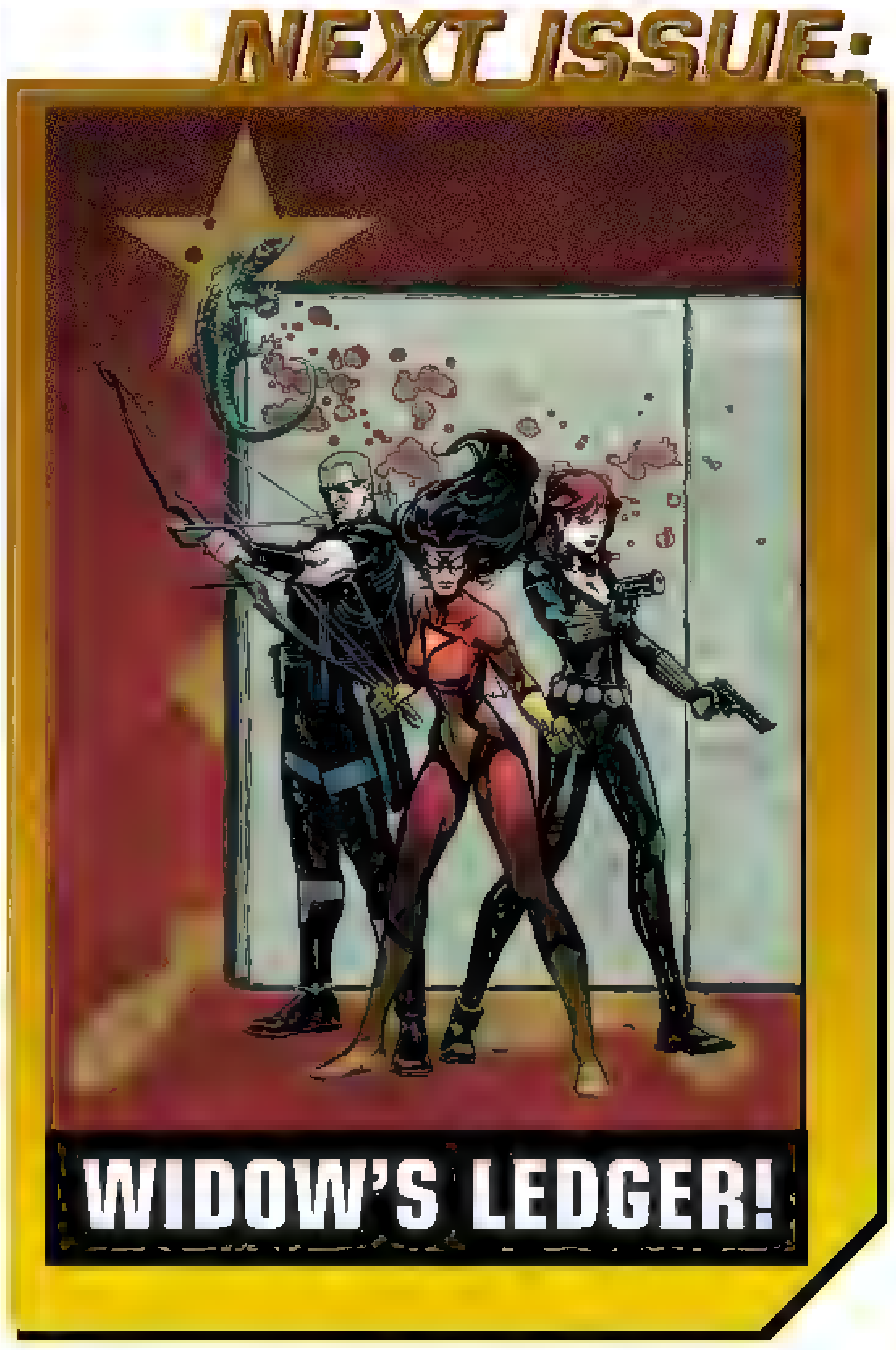
Sincerely,
Humphrey Hamma
Portland, OR



Brilliant work, Humphrey! Thanks for sharing it with us!

We're sorry if it seems like we're beating a dead horse, but we're just so knocked out by the response to the letter we printed a few months ago from Elizabeth Snee about her injured husband that we feel like we just have to share the good vibes with everyone! Among those that offered to send care packages of comics were Scott Randel, Zac Sutton, Stephen Davidson, Rachel Ward, Joan M. McHugh, Derek Callow, Joe Gentile, Santana Arjune, John Voulieris, Michael P. Falcone, and Borja Alcaraz, heroes all! Know that they have been awarded the Imperial Crest of No-Prizedom for their gallant efforts on behalf of our injured comrade, with our thanks!

NEXT ISSUE:


WIDOW'S LEDGER!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

UNCANNY AVENGERS #4 ☐
FINAL CONFLICT WITH THE RED SKULL'S S-MEN! AND, OH, THAT LAST PAGE!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #11 ☐
IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES UNTIL SOMEBODY LOSES AN IRON MAN!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE ANNUAL #1 ☐
THE VISION MUST MAKE A DRAMATIC CHOICE ABOUT HIS FUTURE!

AVENGERS #3 ☐
SHOWDOWN ON MARS! FEATURING EVERYBODY!

AVENGERS #4 ☐
ADAM KUBERT ILLUSTRATES AS THE SECRETS OF HYPERION ARE REVEALED!

NEW AVENGERS #1 ☐
THE RETURN OF THE ILLUMINATI!

NEW AVENGERS #2 ☐
ARE THE INFINITY GEMS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE THE EARTH?

SECRET AVENGERS #36 ☐
VENOM AND VALKYRIE INVADE THE CORE!

SECRET AVENGERS #37 ☐
FINAL ISSUE! IS DEATH THE ONLY WAY TO STOP FATHER'S DESCENDANTS?

AVENGERS ARENA #3 ☐
X-23 VS. ANNIHILATION'S CAMMI! PLUS: A BIG CHANGE FOR DARKHAWK!

YOUNG AVENGERS #1 ☐
THEY'RE BACK—BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS TO SAVE THE WORLD!

DARK AVENGERS #185 ☐
AT WAR WITH THE DEADLY DOCTOR STRANGE!

DARK AVENGERS #186 ☐
THE RETURN OF THE U.S.AGENT!

A + X #4 ☐
BEAST AND SPIDER-MAN FIND THEMSELVES IN A POST-APOCALYPTIC FUTURE, WHILE CAPTAIN AMERICA SPENDS SOME QUALITY TIME WITH QUENTIN QUIRE!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE vs THE AVENGERS #4 ☐

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #10 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

DeCONNICK • WOODS • HANNA • BEREDO

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

012

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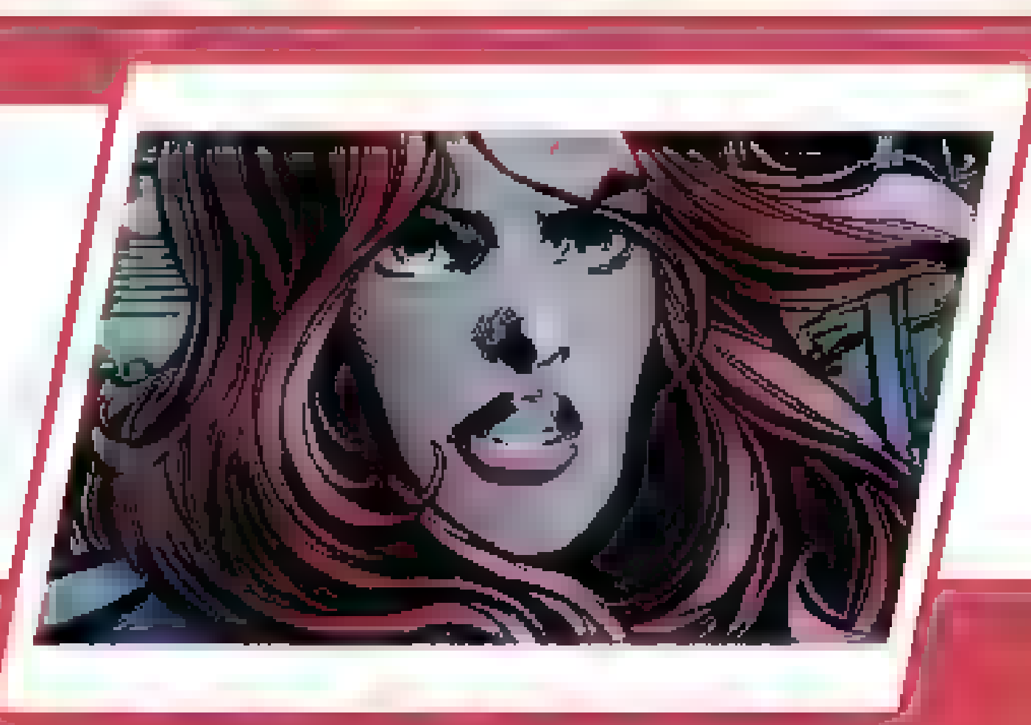
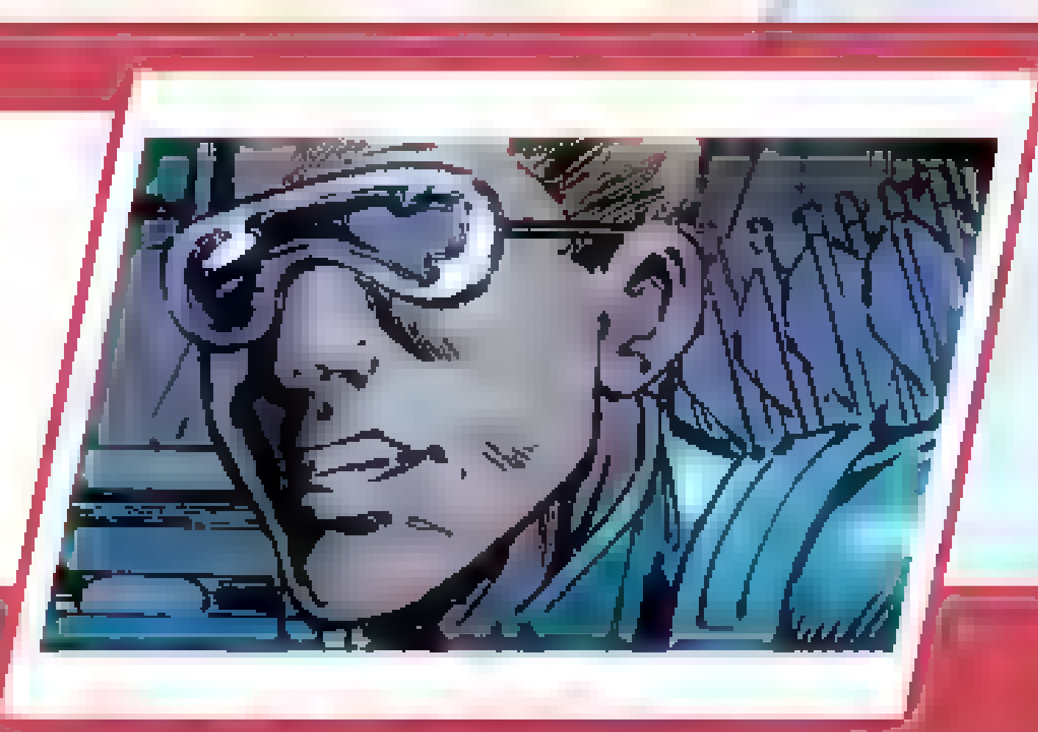
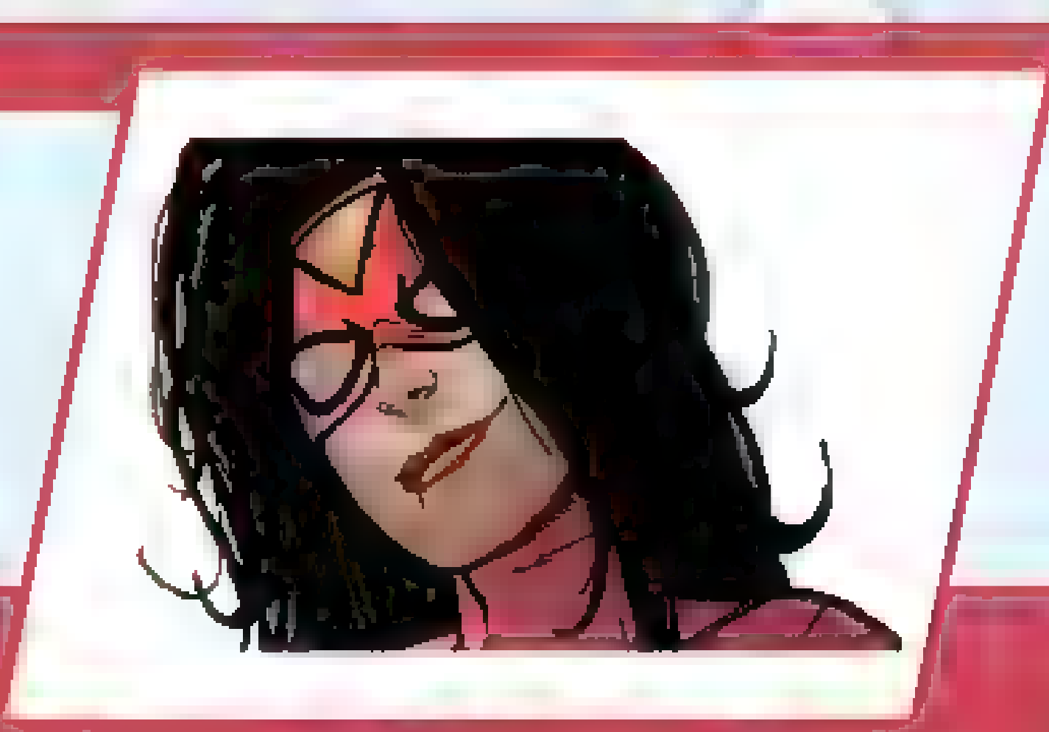
AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE


BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY, COVERT SPECIALIST


HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON
EXPERT MARKSMAN


SPIDER-WOMAN
JESSICA DREW
SPIDER-POWERED SECRET AGENT

KELLY SUE **DeCONNICK**
WRITER

PETE **WOODS**
PENCILER

SCOTT **HANNA**
INKER

RAIN **BEREDO**
COLORIST

VC's CLAYTON **COWLES**
LETTERER

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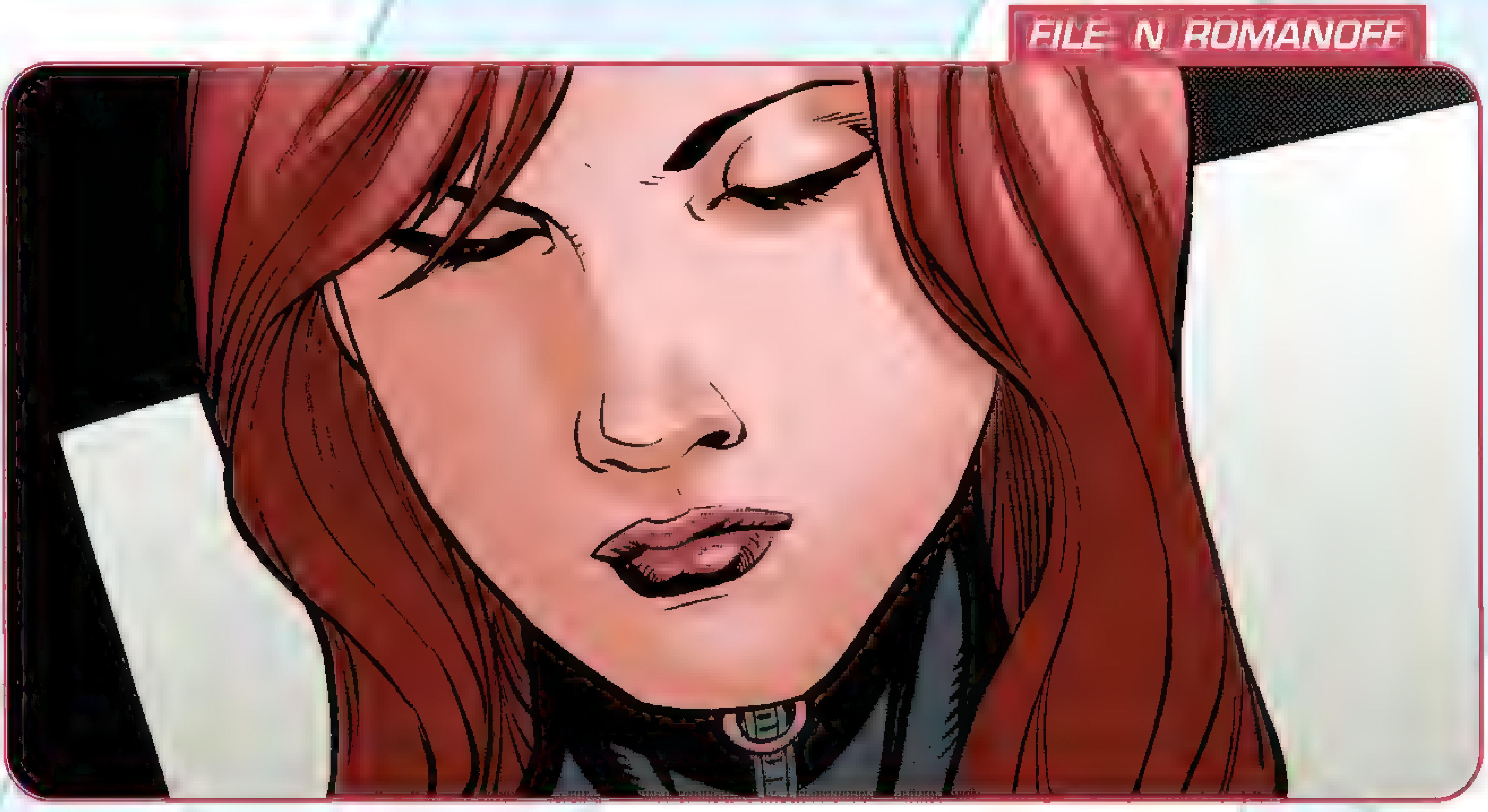

Trained from youth in the ways of espionage and combat, the Black Widow was one of the greatest spies the KGB ever had. They controlled her using false memories and brainwashing, but once she was free of their control she defected and became a strong and faithful ally to her former enemies, the Avengers.

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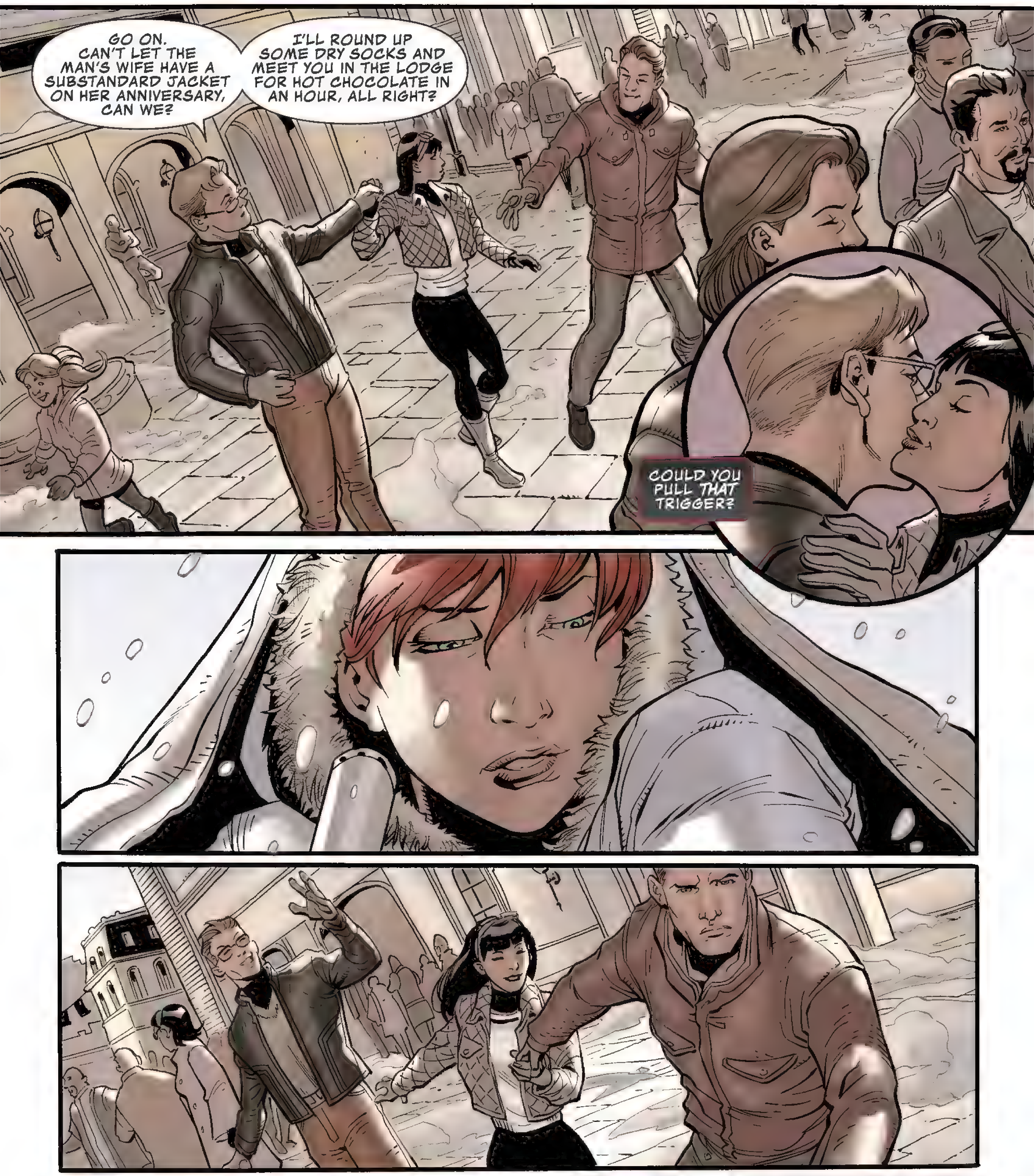
THE SWISS ALPS. WHAT FEELS LIKE A LIFETIME AGO.
itore
VISUAL CONFIRMATION...
...IT'S ANOKHIN.
ROGER VISUAL CONFIRMATION.
GET THE WIFE OUT OF MY SHOT, GIDEON.
PETER ANOKHIN.
MAN OF SCIENCE, FATHER AND DEEPLY DEVOTED HUSBAND OF TEN YEARS TODAY...
ALSO LEAD DEVELOPER BEHIND A REPTILE-DERIVED SERUM INTENDED FOR USE BY THE SOVIET MILITARY...
...AND MY TARGET.

IF YOU COULD TAKE HITLER OUT, WOULD YOU DO IT?
MISS! MISS!
SURE. YES. *EASY.* MOST OF US WOULD.
WHAT ABOUT *OPPENHEIMER?*
THAT SKI JACKET--I HAVE TO KNOW WHERE YOU GOT IT!
THIS? REALLY?
MY WIFE AND I ARE HERE ON OUR ANNIVERSARY AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE I FORGOT TO BRING A GIFT?
THAT'S WHEN THINGS GET INTERESTING.
I'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING *SPECTACULAR,* AND THAT JACKET--
WE'RE HERE ON OUR ANNIVERSARY TOO!
HEY! HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
YOU BROUGHT A GIFT, DIDN'T YOU?
HEH. I DID, YES.
DID YOU GET THE JACKET HERE BY ANY CHANCE?
PETER, WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE SHOP? JUST UP THE WAY, YOU REMEMBER?
I HATE TO IMPOSE, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D SHOW ME?
PLEASE?
WELL...
COULD YOU FOLLOW ORDERS TO KILL A MAN BECAUSE THE PRODUCT OF HIS GENIUS WOULD BECOME A WEAPON OF WAR?


GO ON. CAN'T LET THE MAN'S WIFE HAVE A SUBSTANDARD JACKET ON HER ANNIVERSARY, CAN WE?
I'LL ROUND UP SOME DRY SOCKS AND MEET YOU IN THE LODGE FOR HOT CHOCOLATE IN AN HOUR, ALL RIGHT?
COULD YOU PULL *THAT* TRIGGER?
YES.

I CAN.
THUKK
I DID.
PETER...?
AND THAT...
SHNNK
PETER!
...AS MUCH AS ANYTHING...
PETER, NO!
...IS WHAT MAKES ME...
PETER, NO! NO NO NO--!
DON'T YOU LEAVE ME--
DON'T YOU DARE--

...THE BLACK WIDOW.
AVENGERS TOWER, YESTERDAY MORNING.
NATASHA...
HELLOOOO...?
PAGING NATASHA...
IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?

I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN, CLINT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M OUT OF GROCERIES.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD GO TO THE STORE.
I'M AN ICONOCLAST.
JESSICA TEACH YOU THAT WORD?
YES.
IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?
WHICH ONE?
ANOKHIN.
WHERE?
SIBERIA.
YOU CALL GIDEON?
GIDEON'S OFF THE GRID.
DID I HEAR MY NAME BEING TAKEN IN VAIN?

AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?
NO.
RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU HAVE SPIDER-POWERS, A HISTORY OF ERRATIC BEHAVIOR AND A DEEPLY DISTURBING BACKSTORY INVOLVING TRUST ISSUES.
ALSO: A KNIFE.
IF MY BOYFRIEND AND HIS EX ARE KEEPING SOMETHING FROM ME, IT SURE AS HELL BETTER BE A SURPRISE PARTY...
...SIX MONTHS EARLY.
WHAT'S WITH THE KNIFE, JESS?
I WAS USING IT.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, CLINT?
I'M GOING TO SIBERIA.

NO, I'M GOING TO SIBER
WE'RE GOING TO SIBERIA.
YOU'RE NOT GOING.
SOMEONE'S GOING WITH YOU. IF GIDEON CAN'T, I'M GOING.
LAST CHANCE. WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
THERE CAME A TIME WHEN I FELT THE NEED TO ATONE FOR SOME... KARMIC DEBTS. I GAVE OUT SOME MARKERS.
ONE HAS BEEN CALLED IN.
WE'RE GOING TO SIBERIA TO PAY A KARMIC DEBT?
WHAT? KARMA DON'T TAKE PAYPAL?
WHOA NOW. YOU'RE NOT GOING. WE'RE GOING.
IF YOU'RE GOING, I'M GOING.
LOOK, WE'RE ALL ADULTS HERE.
PFFT. ADULTS KNOW HOW TO WRITE CHECKS.
I'M SURE I COULD WRITE A CHECK IF I HAD A CHECKBOOK.
CASE CLOSED! I'M GOING.
SINCE WHEN IS HAVING A CHECKBOOK--?! LOOK, YOU'RE NOT GOING!
NEITHER OF YOU IS GOING!

OMSK, SIBERIA.
HWEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEE
TEA?
KARL, BE A GOOD BOY AND GIVE ME A HAND WITH THESE--
--GROCERIES.
KRRTHIKK

ANNA--
I TOLD YOU NEVER TO COME BACK HERE.
GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!
SMAK
I SAID I WOULDN'T RETURN UNLESS YOU SENT THE MARKER.
YOU SENT THE MARKER.
I DID *NOT.* I WOULD *NEVER--*
I DID. I SENT IT.
AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE FOR YOU? YOU HAD NO RIGHT!
FOR *GALINA.*
GALINA IS *DEAD,* YOU STUPID BOY! MY DAUGHTER IS DEAD! WHY DO YOU TORTURE US BOTH?
SHE'S NOT DEAD! IF SHE WAS DEAD, I WOULD KNOW.
I LOVE HER.
YOU'RE A CHILD. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I KNOW YOU WERE MY AGE WHEN YOU MET PETER, ANNA. WHAT DID *YOU* KNOW?

I WANT TO BE ANYWHERE BUT HERE.
SUCK IT UP, COWBOY.
THIS WAS YOUR IDEA.
I'M GOING OUT. WHEN I RETURN YOU'LL ALL BE GONE.
ALL OF YOU.
THIS IS GOING WELL.
WHAT HAPPENED TO GALINA, KARL?
KROKODIL GOT HER.
IS HE LIKE THE LIZARD?
NO. KROKODIL. DESOMORPHINE... IT'S A DRUG.
"IT'S COOKED UP FROM CODEINE AND CHEMICALS--GASOLINE, PAINT THINNER. IT'S CHEAP, IT PRODUCES A HIGH SIMILAR TO HEROIN...
"...AND THEN IT ROTS YOUR FLESH SO IT HARDENS UP AND FALLS OFF IN CHUNKS.
"GOOGLE IT IF YOU EVER NEED TO MAKE YOURSELF VOMIT."

THERE'S A KROKODIL MARKET CITY IN THE OLD METRO TUNNELS...
"GALINA WENT LOOKING FOR IT.
"SHE'S BRILLIANT, A CHEMIST LIKE HER FATHER.
"SHE DIDN'T GO DOWN THERE TO *USE.*
"SHE WENT DOWN TO *HELP.*
"AND WHAT DID SHE GET FOR HER TROUBLE?
"YOU HAVE TO FIND HER.
"YOU OWE US THIS MUCH."

TELL ME THAT ISN'T HER.
IT'S NOT.
WHY WOULD ANYONE DO THAT TO THEMSELVES?
TO FEEL SOMETHING. TO FEEL NOTHING...
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.
WE SHOULD TAKE HIM BACK UP.
NO. WE'LL GET HIM ON THE WAY BACK.
HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE...
"...NOT A LOT OF PROSPECTS FOR THE YOUTH OF SIBERIA THESE DAYS."

LATER.
...IT'S NOT ABOUT THE CHECKBOOK PER SE! IT'S ABOUT WHAT THE CHECKBOOK REPRE--
OH MY GOD, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LET THIS GO?
I DON'T LIKE CHECKS! THEY'RE PAPER.
DOLLAR BILLS ARE PAPER!
NOT PAPER THAT YOU WRITE ON.
WHAT ABOUT THAT TIME YOU PUT THE "B" AND THE "R" AROUND THE--
HOW MANY?
AT LEAST A DOZEN.
THAT WAS HILARIOUS! YOU LAUGHED AT THAT.
I DIDN'T SAY YOU WEREN'T FUNNY.
NO, YOU MERELY IMPLIED I WASN'T VERY--
NOW!

--BRIGHT!

AHHH! GET IT OFF ME!
ZZAK
I DON'T!
DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A LIZARD THING.

HURGH
I'VE JUST SEEN A FEW TOO MANY LIZARD PEOPLE UP CLOSE OF LATE, OKAY?
RRRP
UH... YOU LOSE SOMETHING?
DUCK!
TWUDRRRK

OH, GOOD. THERE'S MORE.
SKREEEEEEEEEE
DO WE HAVE A PLAN HERE, LADIES?
PANIC AND FREAK OUT?!
NO.
LET'S SEE WHERE THEY'RE TAKING US.
LIKE CROWD-SURFING.
ONLY STICKIER.
KEE KEE KEE KEE

I TOOK A SHORTCUT.
GALINA, MAY I PRESENT YOUR FATHER'S MURDERER.
THISSSS ISSSS A PLEASSSSANT SSSURPRISSSE...
KARL?
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

The Marvel Now! train just keeps on a-chuggin' this month, with the debut of the all-new **SECRET AVENGERS #1**! It's a brand-new team with a brand-new mission as creators Nick Spencer and Luke Ross guide Nick Fury and Phil Coulson in assembling a crew of operatives for global missions so secret, even the heroes themselves can't know about them! If you loved the Black Widow sequence in the AVENGERS film (and, let's face it, who didn't?) then this is the book for you!

MARVEL NOW!
SECRET
#1
BUDAPEST
NICK SPENCER
LUKE ROSS
MATTHEW WILSON
JOIN THE REVOLUTION
FREE
001

Two other Now! titles debuting this month that might be of interest to Avengers aficionados: Valkyrie and Misty Knight form the nucleus of a female-focused super-team in **FEARLESS DEFENDERS #1** by Cullen Bunn and Will Sliney! And the gone-but-not-forgotten Brian Michael Bendis teams with Steve McNiven to reveal the origin of Star-Lord in **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #0.1**! And both series come with the certified Avengers seal of approval!

You know what comic not enough of you are reading? **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE**! Want to know why you should? Here's a taste:

Dear Ms. DeConnick and Mr. Caselli,

I have just finished AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9 and wanted to write to you immediately, partly because although I've never written to a comic before I wanted to contact you and show my appreciation, and partly to offer my hand in marriage to one or both of you, whatever you prefer.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9 is the most perfect comic I've read since NEXTWAVE. I've been a huge fan of the Avengers for a while now, and Tony Stark in particular and his appearance in this was an absolute joy to read. Everyone was note-perfect, actually, and it's so rare, I think, to read a comic that's just so much fun and works the team dynamic so well. It's fantastic that Marvel isn't afraid to embrace the lighter side of super-heroics. I read it straight through three times, and then showed it to everyone else I met for the rest of the afternoon.

Thanks for such a great comic, and I can't wait to read issue #10!

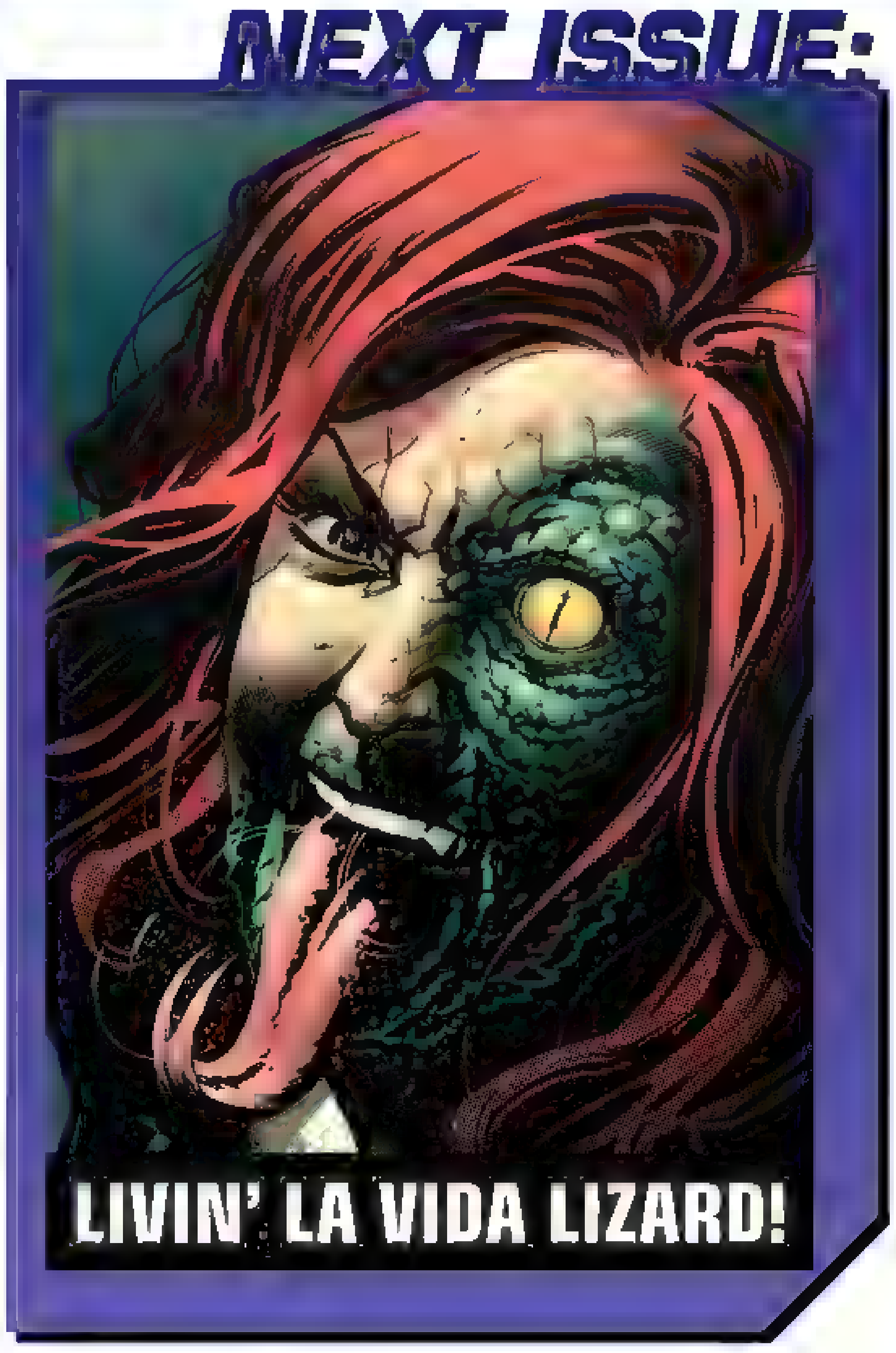
Olivia,
London, UK

And to close us out for the month, let's do another installment of Avengers Cosplay! This is Avengers fan Jason Childers rocking an outstanding classic Hawkeye outfit!

Photo by Judy Stephens for Marvel.com

There's no denying it, Jason—purple is definitely your color!

NEXT ISSUE:



LIVIN' LA VIDA LIZARD!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #5 ☐
THE ORIGIN OF SMASHER!

AVENGERS #6 ☐
REVEALED! THE SECRET OF CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!

AVENGERS ARENA #4 ☐
THE RUNAWAYS VS AVENGERS ACADEMY!

AVENGERS ARENA #5 ☐
MAYHEM AMONGST THE BRADDOCK ACADEMY!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #12 ☐
THE BLACK WIDOW'S LEDGER!

DARK AVENGERS #187 ☐
ESCAPE FROM KING THING'S TORTURE PIT!

NEW AVENGERS #3 ☐
THE RETURN OF THE ILLUMINATI!

SECRET AVENGERS #1 ☐
WE'D TELL YOU, BUT YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #5 ☐
OLIVIER COIPEL! AND THREE NEW MEMBERS!

YOUNG AVENGERS #2 ☐
PARENTAL STRIFE! PLUS THE UNCANNY AVENGERS!

A + X #5 ☐
IRON MAN AND THE BEAST! IRON FIST AND DOOP!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #11 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

DeCONNICK • WOODS • BAGLEY • HANNA

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

013

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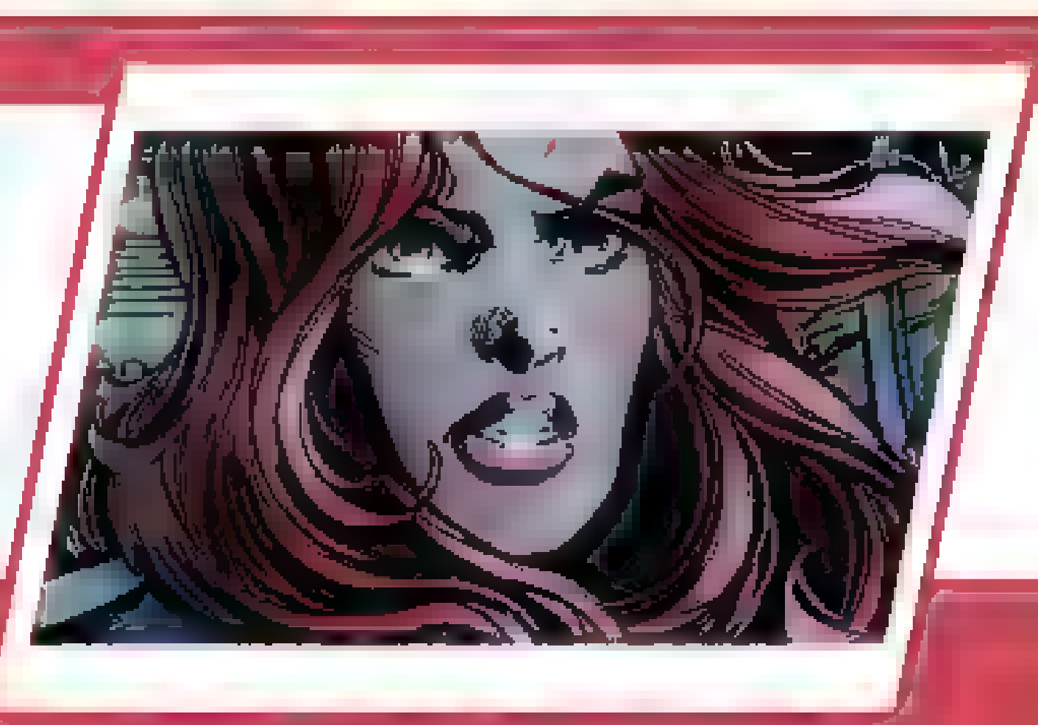
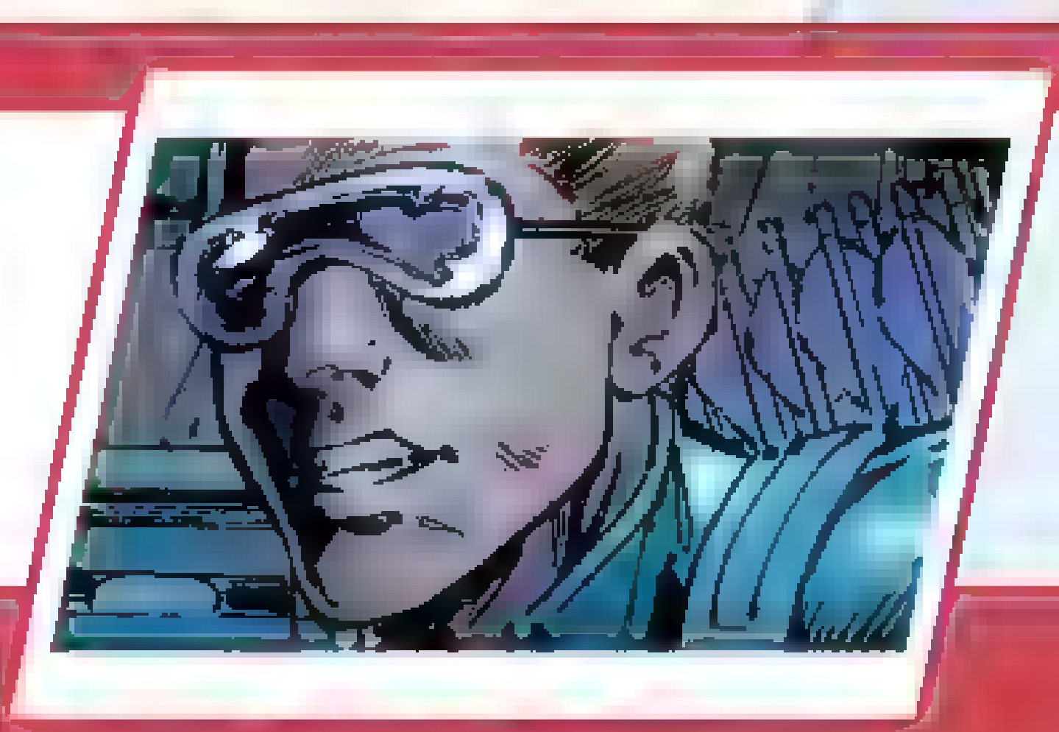
AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

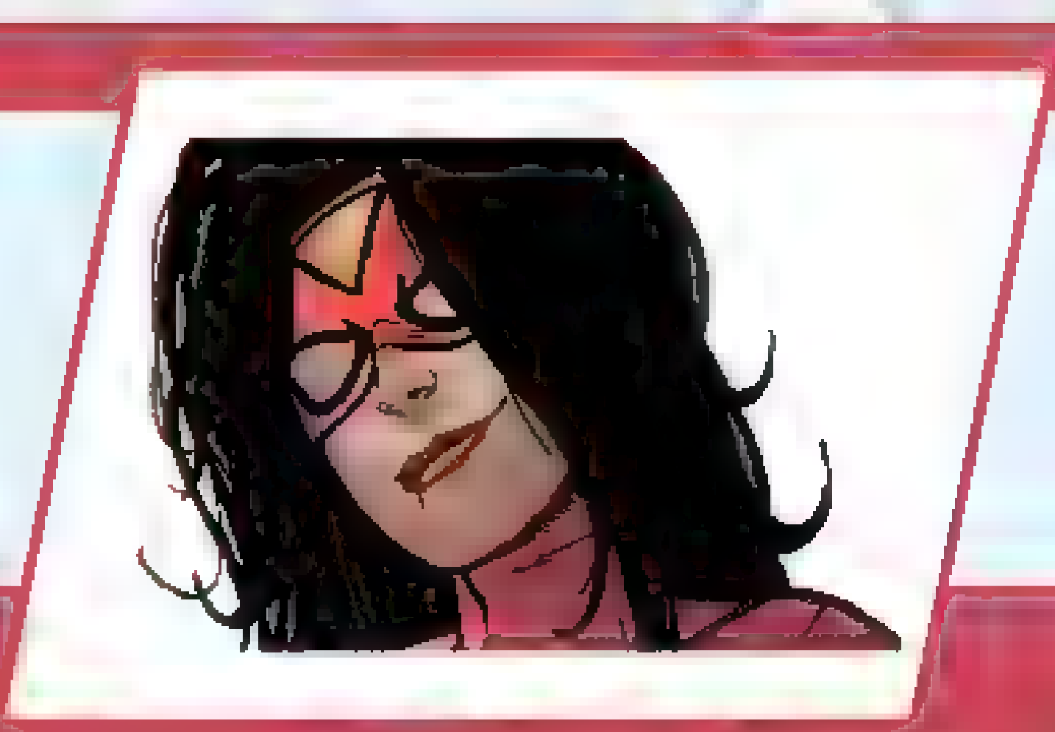
AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE



BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY, COVERT SPECIALIST



HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON,
EXPERT MARKSMAN



SPIDER-WOMAN
JESSICA DREW
SPIDER-POWERED SECRET AGENT

KELLY SUE **DeCONNICK**
WRITER

PETE **WOODS** & MARK **BAGLEY**
PENCILS & BREAKDOWNS

SCOTT **HANNA**
FINISHES

RAIN **BEREDO**
COLORIST

VC's CLAYTON **COWLES**
LETTERER

NIC **KLEIN**
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ALAN **FINE**
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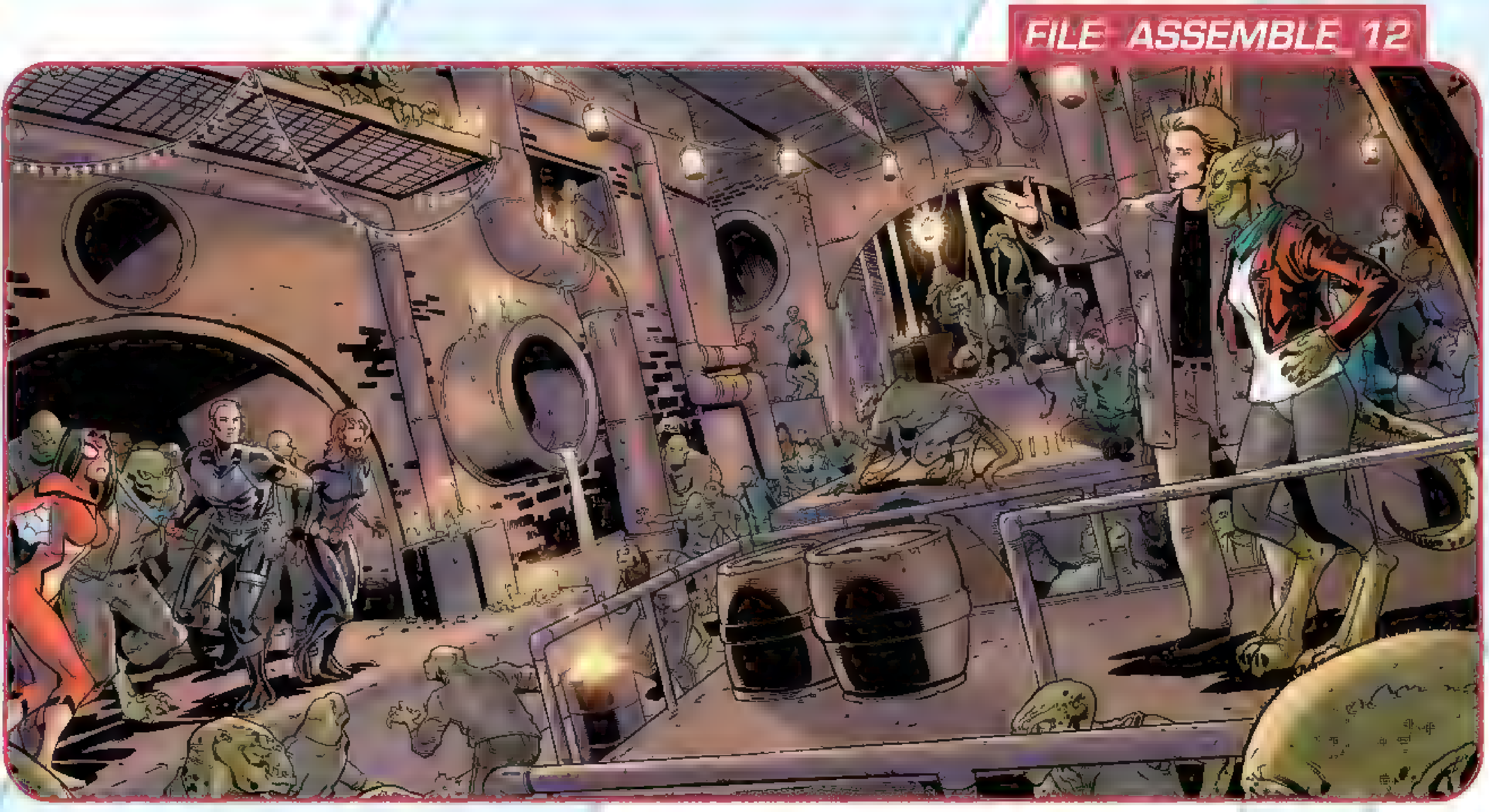

Although the Black Widow is now a hero of great renown, her dark past as an agent of the KGB's experimental Red Room is never far behind her. When one of her victims called in a karmic marker, a set of tokens Natasha gave to those whom she owed a debt, she traveled to Siberia with Avengers Hawkeye and Spider-Woman. They were tasked with finding the missing Galina Anokhin, daughter of a Soviet scientist who was working on a weaponized reptile-derived serum when Natasha assassinated him in her KGB days. But Galina wasn't missing at all; her lover Karl had merely used the marker as a lure to present the reptilian Galina to her father's killer, the Black Widow!

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I'VE GOT RED IN MY LEDGER.

ITEM 84: PETER ANOKHIN.
I TOLD MYSELF THAT I WAS *SAVING LIVES*. THAT IF HE WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE HIS WORK WITH REPTILIAN DNA, ANOKHIN WOULD SUCCEED IN WEAPONIZING A GENERATION OF RUSSIA'S YOUTH.
HUNDREDS WOULD SURELY DIE. MAYBE THOUSANDS. MAYBE MILLIONS.
UNLESS I MADE A CHOICE.
I CHOSE WRONG.

I COULDN'T ADMIT IT TO MYSELF FOR YEARS.
NICE SHOT.
BLUE CAR'S WAITING AT THE CURB. KEYS IN THE IGNITION. YOU DRIVE.
I FOUGHT MY CONSCIENCE LIKE AN ENEMY THEN.
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
I'VE SPENT HALF MY LIFE SINCE TRYING TO BALANCE THE BOOKS OF BLOOD ON MY HANDS...
NATASHA...? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? GET IN.
MAKING UP FOR THE *SECOND ACT* I DENIED PETER ANOKHIN WITH MY OWN.
WE DON'T GIVE THE ORDERS, WE'RE NOT--
JUST DRIVE.
THEY DON'T PUT A NAME LIKE *THE BLACK WIDOW* ON YOUR TOMBSTONE IF YOU SPENT YOUR LIFE DOLING OUT LOLLIPOPS AND FRUIT JUICE.
XJ437E
BELIEVE ME...

...I EARNED THIS.
GALINA, YOU DIDN'T NEED THE SUBTERFUGE. I WOULD HAVE COME TO MEET YOU. I OWE YOU AT LEAST THIS MUCH.
WOULD YOU NOW? EXACTLY HOW DO YOU THINK THIS IS GOING TO GO?
"GEE, I'M SORRY I KILLED YOUR DAD, GALINA!"
"OH, YOOOOU! THAT'S OKAY, SPIDER-LADY--"
BLACK WIDOW! I'M THE SPIDER-LA--
HELLO, EW. CAN YOU TAKE A STEP BACK, PLEASE?
THANK YOU.
"THAT'S OKAY, BLACK WIDOW, I WENT AHEAD AND FINISHED THE OLD MAN'S WORK SO WE'RE ALL GOOD. LET'S HUG IT OUT!"
GALINA, I--
YOU'RE NOT HERE TO SALVE YOUR CONSCIENCE!
YOU DON'T GET THAT!

...
KARL, IF YOU THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME AN ANGRY YOUNG MAN HAS SCREAMED THREATS IN MY FACE, YOU ARE MISTAKEN.
IT'S NOT EVEN THE FIRST TIME *TODAY*, PAL.
DIDN'T WORK FOR HIM EITHER.
I ALWAYSSSS WONDERED HOW IT WOULD FEEL...TO SSSSEE YOU IN THE FLESHHH...
NOTHING I CAN SAY OR DO WILL BRING YOUR FATHER BACK, GALINA.
YOU'RE NOT HERE TO RESURRECT THE DEAD, WIDOW.
WHY *HAVE* YOU BROUGHT HER HERE, KARL?
I WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU...
...WITH A SUITABLE WEDDING GIFT.
WOOOOOOOW.
OKAY. *THAT* I DID NOT SEE COMING.

GALINA, I HAVE A BUYER FOR YOUR FATHER'S FORMULA--FOR *OUR* FORMULA. NO MORE EXPERIMENTS. THEY'LL TAKE IT AS IS.
KARL. WE TALKED ABOUT THISSS...
HEAR ME OUT. *PLEASE.*
THERE'S ENOUGH MONEY ON THE TABLE TO MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE-- ALL OF US!
DMITRI, YOUR BROTHER, IS WALKING NOW. IS THIS THE FUTURE YOU WANT FOR HIM? WE DON'T *HAVE* TO LIVE LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
NO MORE HIDING IN SHADOWS. NO MORE RISKING YOUR *LIVES* WITH CONTAMINATED CHEMICALS!
GALINA, WE DON'T HAVE TO BE *APART* ANOTHER MINUTE. WE CAN TAKE YOUR MOM AND GET AWAY. BUY A HOUSE. A TON OF HOUSES. HELL, WE COULD BUY A WHOLE TOWN!
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE U.S.? YOU SHOULD CONSIDER FLORIDA. THEY *LOVE* GIANT LIZARDS. YOU'D FIT RIGHT IN!
IT ISN'T *PERMANENT.*
IT ISN'T PERMANENT *YET.*
THEY NEED CONSTANT BUMPS OR THE ALTERED CELLS DIE OFF AND THE BODY REVERTS TO ITS NATURAL STATE.
HOW MANY MORE DO WE LOSE TO OVERDOSE BEFORE IT'S PERMANENT? THREE? FOUR? WHICH ONES? MARIA? DMITRI?
YOU...?
IT'S NOT TOO LATE, GALINA. WE CAN HAVE A NORMAL LIFE. WE CAN DO ALL THE THINGS WE TALKED ABOUT--
NO.

GALINA, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE WITHOUT YOU ONE DAY MORE.
I FIND THIS WEIRDLY ROMANTIC.
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
SO MANY THINGS.
THEN JOIN ME.
KARL, DON'T DO IT!
HISSSSS
OUT COME THE NEEDLES AND SO MUCH FOR ROMANCE.
SORRY.
STORY OF MY LIFE.
BAM.

RRRR
IT'S YOUR PARTY, TASH. HOW DO YOU WANT THIS TO GO DOWN?
BLOW THE EQUIPMENT AND DRIVE THEM INTO THE TUNNELS. WITHOUT THEIR NEXT FIX, THEY'LL DETOX OVERNIGHT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF GA--
WHAT ELSE WILL YOU TAKE FROM ME?
SLLIIISSSSS
I EARNED THIS.

THP
NATASHAAAAAA!
KRRSSHH
JESS, SHE'S BLEEDING OUT! I NEED A HAND-- A TOURNIQUET, SOMETHING--

YOU CAN'T PUT A TOURNIQUET AROUND HER NECK!
KEEP PRESSURE ON IT. I'LL CLEAR YOU A PATH TO THE TUNNEL--
WHAT GOOD'S THAT GOING TO DO? THERE ISN'T TIME!
SLRK
SHE'LL DIE BEFORE THEY SSSEE DAYLIGHT.
TOO BAD YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO GLOAT.
ZZTTTTT

JESS, I NEED THAT EXIT *NOW!*
WE'RE GONNA GET YOU OUT OF HERE, TASH.
WE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS, YOU AND ME.
ALMOST CLEAR!
NOOOO!
SCHWIIIIKK
NOT SSSOOO FASSST...
SHWURRKK
SHE'S REGENERATING...

THE SERUM! THEY REGENERATE--
DOSE HER! DOSE THE HELL OUT OF HER!
COME ON, COME ON...WHERE ARE YOU?
THERE!
ALMOST, TASH. ALMOST... I GOTCHA...
AHHHH!
THOSE ARE MINE!

YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
THUKKKK
GOT THE SERUM?
GOT IT!
AHH GOD, I HOPE THIS WORKS.
THWKK

CAN YOU STILL CALL THEM SECOND CHANCES IF YOU'VE GOTTEN SO MANY YOU'VE LOST COUNT?
I DON'T KNOW WHY I ALWAYS SEEM TO GET PULLED BACK FROM THE BRINK.
LUCK, MAYBE? IT ISN'T WISDOM, THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.
IF I'D COME ALONE, LIKE I WANTED, I'D BE DEAD.
IS THAT CHANCE? DIVINITY?
...OR JUST GOOD TASTE IN PARTNERS?

DID IT WORK?
IT ABSOLUTELY WORKED, JESS.
RRAAAA
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHY I'VE GOT ANOTHER GO AT TURNING THE WHEEL BACK IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION...

I'M NOT SSSCARED OF YOU...
YOU CAN KILL ME.
AND I WILL DIE PROUD--
LIKE MY FATHER!
...I AM DAMN SURE NOT GOING TO WASTE IT.
GRAB KARL. MAKE SSSURE THERE'S NO ONE ELSSSE BACK THERE. WE'RE LEAVING.
NOOOOOO! I HATE YOU!
YOU'RE GOING TO HATE ME MORE BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH.
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

HU-URGG

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME...?
NOT EVER AGAIN, NO. BUT IT SEEMS GOD HAD A DIFFERENT PLAN.
TAKE THIS.
WHAT IS IT?
PETER'S DIARY.
THE DAY HE DIED WAS OUR ANNIVERSARY. THE GIFT HE'D PLANNED FOR ME WAS OUR WAY OUT OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONRY PROGRAM...
A CATALOG OF ANTIDOTES, COUNTER-FORMULAS FOR EVERYTHING WE'D BEEN INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING--GENETIC AND OTHERWISE.
THEY'RE UNTESTED OF COURSE, BUT HE WAS A BRILLIANT MAN. THERE MAY BE SOMETHING IN THERE YOU CAN USE.
THERE ARE ALSO...NOTES. PERSONAL DETAILS. THINGS THAT WILL TELL YOU THE SORT OF MAN PETER WAS.
YOU SHOULD READ THEM.

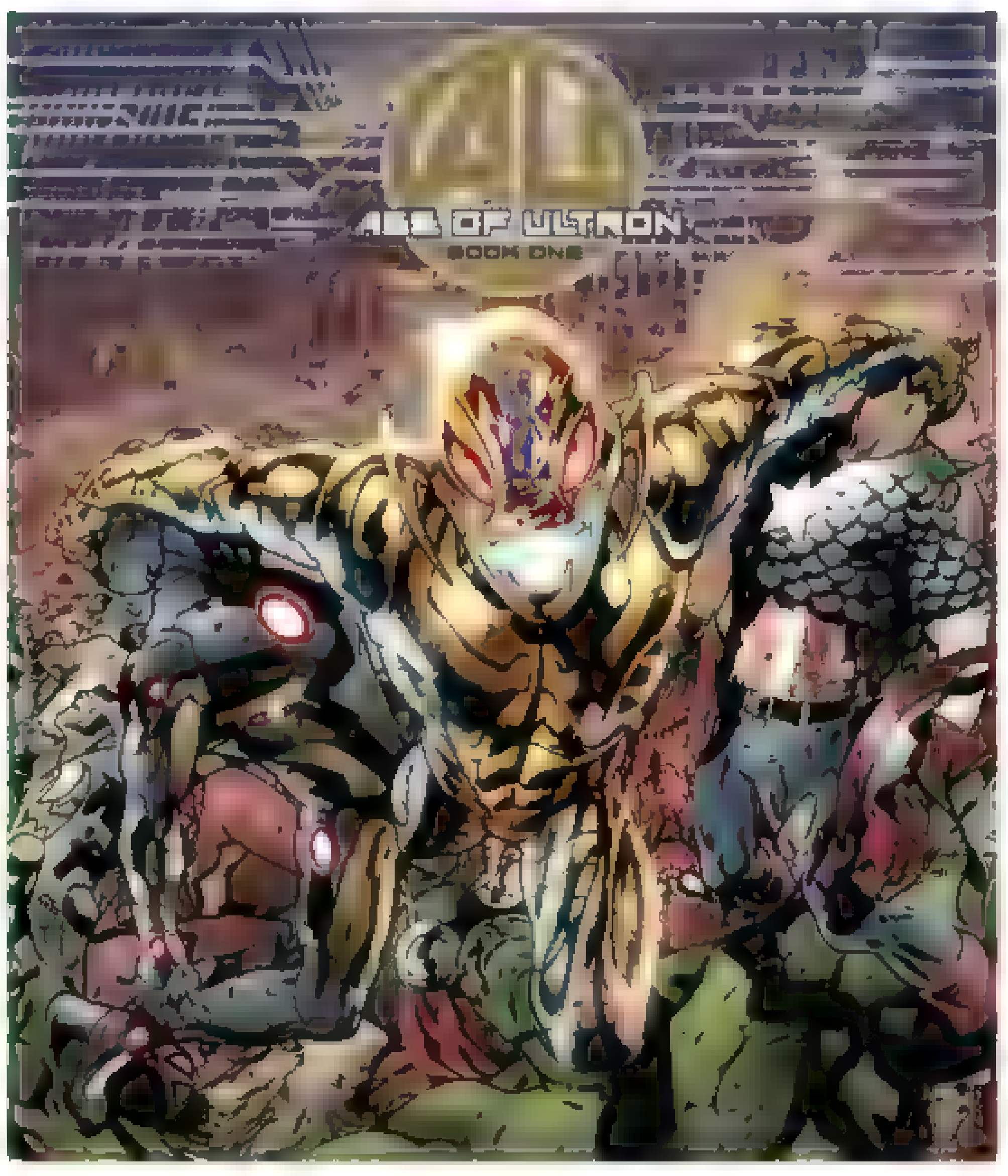
AVENGERS TOWER.
...I WILL.
HOW MANY OF THEM ARE STILL OUT THERE?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU. I THOUGHT YOU HEARD ME KNOCK.
I DIDN'T.
OKAAAAY. STILL SORRY. YOU GOING TO ANSWER MY QUESTION?
HOW MANY WHAT?
HOW MANY MARKERS? HOW MANY BLANK CHECKS STILL OUTSTANDING?
EIGHT.

EIGHT...?
EIGHT.
ARE THEY ALL THIS... BAD?
NO...
"NOT ALL OF THEM...
"...SOME OF THEM ARE MUCH WORSE."
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? GO LAY DOWN.

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

It's been a long time in coming—since last year's Free Comic Book Day at least! But at last, it's time to prepare for the **AGE OF ULTRON**—a monster storyline from the mind of Brian Michael Bendis and the drawing boards of Bryan Hitch, Brandon Peterson and Carlos Pacheco! The unstoppable A.I. known as Ultron strikes—and before the Marvel Universe knows what's happening, it's all over! And that's just where the story begins! For maximum excitement, AGE OF ULTRON will be coming at you multiple times each month (the first three amazing issues all shipping in March!) along with dedicated tie-in issues of your favorite titles!



This is the first month in forever that doesn't have a new Avengers-affiliated Marvel Now! title launching! So we figured this would be a good time to catch our breath, go to the mail bag, and get a sense of what you guys have thought about our dramatic creative relaunches:

I really did enjoy UNCANNY AVENGERS #1. John Cassaday's art alone is worth the price of admission.

-Chris Lopez

I just read UNCANNY AVENGERS #1 and I found it fascinating. There are so many great ideas exploited by Remender.

-Arcadio Bolaños

I loved AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9 and am so looking forward to see what Kelly & Stefano have in store for us. The snappy dialogue and perfect characterization was a welcome breath of fresh air.

-Rachael Sherwood

UNCANNY AVENGERS #1 was AMAZING! SPECTACULAR! UNCANNILY AWESOME! I really cannot wait to see where the series goes and what arcs you guys have in store for us in the future.

-Isaac Orr-Green

LOVE the direction you are taking this book!!!! I wasn't a huge fan of Rogue but she is coming off as a very powerful character, and less whiny.

-Joseph D. Urbick

It has been a long time since I have sent an email into Marvel after reading a comic book but after reading AVENGERS #1 I had to write to say job well done!

-Scott Zachry

While I was a little sad to see J. Hickman leave FANTASTIC FOUR and FF, I´m glad he´s now writing AVENGERS. It´s just what the title needed!

-Iñigo Pm

I just finished AVENGERS #1, and as a 57 year old long time comic book reader, I have to say I was extremely disappointed. While I understand that it's simply the first issue, it seemed unstructured, "overwritten" and confusing with no clear cut point of view.

-Mike Vadis

I just wanted to drop you a line and let you know that I really enjoyed issue #9 of the AVENGERS ASSEMBLE series. It was difficult for me to stifle my heinous giggling at the hijinks of Stark and Thor vs. Spider-Woman and Hulk, and I actually had someone come over to me and ask what I was enjoying so much!

-Nikki N.

I was pleasantly surprised. The art by Jerome Opena has come a long way since UNCANNY X-FORCE #1. Hyperion, Smasher, a new Captain Universe? Pretty cool new members, too!

-Andrew J. Shaw

Just wanted to comment on how great this first AVENGERS issue is. The villains are intriguing and compelling right from the get-go. I love that the writing is drawing from classic religious references like Ex Nihilo. It makes the story and dialogue feel rich and interesting.

-Jenny Tarof

I'm absolutely loving the new era - love Jonathan Hickman's writing, love Jerome Opena's artwork - and I understand that the whole point of this story-arc is for the new Avengers team to save the butts of the old Avengers team. So you de-power Iron Man's armor, and you mind-control the Hulk, fine, fine - but in issue #2, you have Thor hanging helpless wrapped in...vines. Vines, people! Try remembering: he's not 'normal guy plus enchanted hammer' - he's 'Hulk-strong guy plus enchanted hammer.' Yeesh.

-Steve Donoghue

I am glad to see the Black Panther back on the scene and making big moves. He is my favorite character. He's also a great choice to lead the New Avengers.

-Vincent

Wow! This is one of the most beautiful books that I've seen in a long time. It's edgy and simply put, utterly brilliant.

-Brian Chamberlin

I was on the fence about AVENGERS... until I saw Cannonball and Sunspot recruited! Cannonball has been my absolute favorite character for years and Sunspot is next in line. Please let them represent the X by kicking major butt as Avengers!

-Isaac Woodby

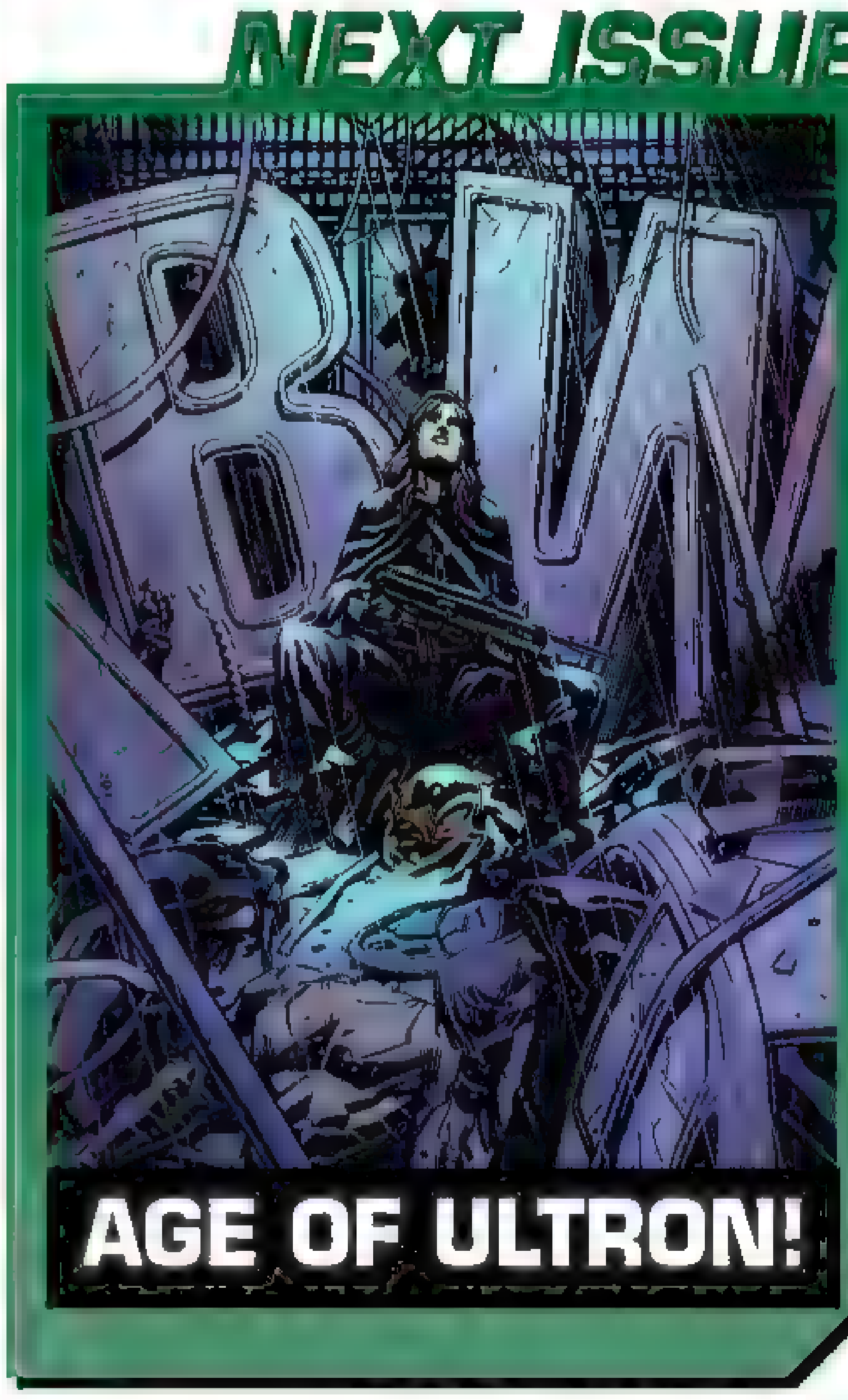
I have loved comics since I was a kid (I'm 31 now). I started collecting them again with the introduction of Marvel Now! I have yet to be disappointed. I just finished reading UNCANNY AVENGERS #3 and all I can say is Wow! That was one heck of a fun roller coaster ride. I loved seeing the Red Skull lose his hand and then Thor bowing down and pledging allegiance at the end. I can't wait to see what you guys do with the apocalypse storyline that is still to come.

-Norman Shane Noah

Well, you've done it. You have officially won me over...big time! I just finished UNCANNY AVENGERS #3 and I had to pick my jaw up off of the floor. Not only that, but for the first time in a long time, I can truly say that I have no idea what is going to happen next.

-Steven Taylor

NEXT ISSUE:



AGE OF ULTRON!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #7 ☐
THE LAST WHITE EVENT!

AVENGERS #8 ☐
WHO IS THE NEW STAR BRAND?

AVENGERS ARENA #6 ☐
ANOTHER SHOCKING DEATH ENDS THE FIRST STORY ARC!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #13 ☐
THE BLACK WIDOW STANDS IN JUDGMENT FOR THE SINS OF HER PAST!

DARK AVENGERS #188 ☐
AT WAR WITH IRON MAN!

NEW AVENGERS #4 ☐
WORLD EATER! AND THAT CAN ONLY MEAN...GALACTUS!

SECRET AVENGERS #2 ☐
NICK FURY AND TASKMASTER MUST ESCAPE FROM BAGALIA, THE RED LIGHT NATION!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #6 ☐
THOR VS APOCALYPSE AT THE DAWN OF TIME!

YOUNG AVENGERS #3 ☐
WHO'S WORSE THAN LOKI? HIS FATHER...

A + X #6 ☐
CAPTAIN MARVEL AND WOLVERINE! PLUS, IRON MAN AND BEAST!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #12 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

ANNUAL
AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE
T.
12
CHRISTOS GAGE
MARVEL
NOW!
TOMM COKER
JOIN THE
REVOLUTION
001

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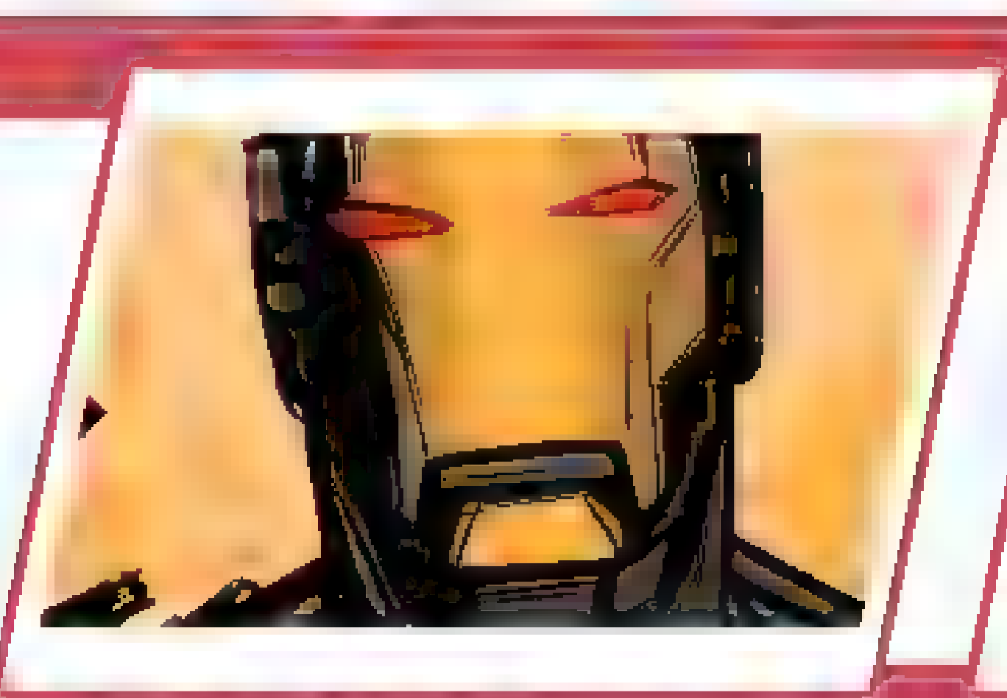
AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

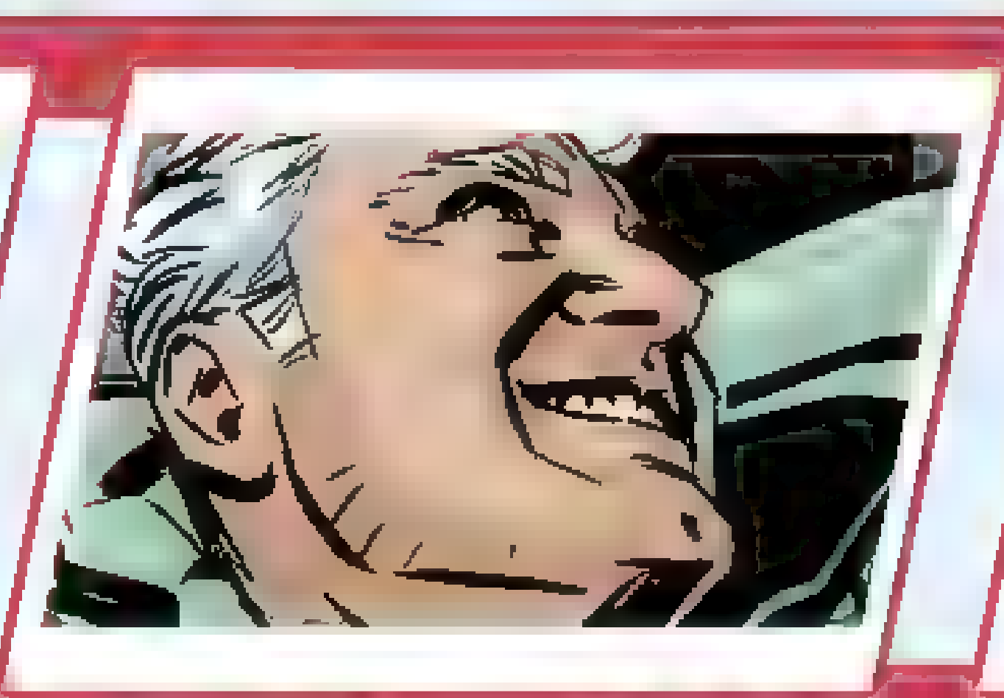
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE



IRON MAN
TONY STARK
BILLIONAIRE TECHNOLOGIST
HIGH-TECH ARMOR

GIANT-MAN
HANK PYM
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE
GROWS, SHRINKS

CAPTAIN MARVEL
CAROL DANVERS
FIGHTER PILOT
FLIES, ZAPS, PUNCHES



QUICKSILVER
PIETRO MAXIMOFF
QUICK-TEMPERED
SUPER-SPEEDSTER

THE VISION
DENSITY MANIPULATION
THERMOSCOPIC
VISION

Created by The Avengers' nemesis Ultron as a being of destruction, the synthezoid known as the Vision overcame his villainous origins to become a force for good. Eventually he even joined the band of heroes he had been created to destroy.

As an Avenger, the Vision fell in love with his teammate, Wanda Maximoff. The two eventually married and had two children, Thomas and William. However, Thomas and William had been created through subconscious use of Wanda's magic powers. When the truth was revealed, the cyphers were no more and the marriage between Wanda and the Vision fell apart.

The loss of their children eventually drove Wanda mad, and in the fallout of her magic-enhanced delirium, the Vision was destroyed. After years of being disassembled, the Vision has returned. But though the pieces are all in the right place, whether or not the Vision is whole again remains to be seen...

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COLUMBUS CIRCLE, MANHATTAN.
H
STARK
DAILY BUGLE
NYC TAXI

I'M NEVER GOING TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
COME ON.
WHY DO YOU THINK I KEEP "FINDING" MORE OF YOUR STUFF? FACT OF LIFE, JESS: WHEN YOUR FRIENDS HAVE KIDS AND YOU STOP WORKING TOGETHER, YOU NEVER SEE THEM.
BREEP BREEP BREEP
CAROL, IF I TRIED TO JOIN THE *MOMMY CULT*, THEY'D GET OUT THE PITCHFORKS AND TORCHES--
GAH. VISION, DO YOU MIND HOLDING THE BABY?
BREEP BREEP BREEP
I--NO.
HELLO, DANIELLE. YOU LOOK HAPPY TODAY.
THAT'S MY SOLAR JEWEL. LOOK, I CAN MAKE IT TURN PRETTY COLORS.
YOU'RE GREAT WITH HER.
I DISCOVERED A VIBRATORY FREQUENCY INFANTS FIND SOOTHING. THE PRODUCT OF RESTLESS BABIES AND A FATHER WHO DOES NOT SLEEP.
OH! I DIDN'T THINK...UH, YOU HAVE KIDS?
NO.

VISION?
CAPTAIN MARVEL. PLEASE COME IN. I WAS REVIEWING EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED WHILE I WAS...INACTIVE.
I AM UPDATING PERSONNEL FILES ALPHABETICALLY, AND THEREFORE THE *YOUNG AVENGERS*--
YOU KNOW, I BET TOMMY AND BILLY WOULD LOVE TO GET TO KNOW YOU.
I HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT HYPOTHESIS.
DON'T GET ALL *"HAL-9000"* WITH ME. I KNOW YOU BETTER.
I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND IT, BUT SOMEHOW THEIR SOULS WERE PART OF *YOUR KIDS.* WHICH MAKES YOU--
IT MAKES ME *NOTHING.*
MY CHILDREN WERE *LIES.* A *FICTION.* A CRUELTY PERPETRATED UPON ME BY MY EX-WIFE.
"ONE OF MANY."

I APOLOGIZE. MY OUTBURST WAS--
THE FIRST HINT I'VE SEEN THAT THE MAN I USED TO KNOW IS STILL IN THERE.
VISION... HAVE YOU *TALKED* TO ANYONE ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH?
CAPTAIN AMERICA. MY EXPERIENCE IS NOT UNLIKE HIS OWN... *"DYING"* AND AWAKENING TO A CHANGED WORLD.
WELL, OKAY. CAP WOULDN'T BE MY FIRST CHOICE OF THERAPIST, BUT...
THIS *"YOUNG VISION"*...HE EXISTED SO BRIEFLY. AND YET HE DEVELOPED CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS. EVEN *LOVE*. SO *EASILY*...
VISION, CAROL...
*WE HAVE A DISTRESS CALL FROM THE **ROXXON** BUILDING. THEY'RE UNDER ATTACK.*
ACCESSING FILES. IS THE PERPETRATOR KNOWN TO US?
*HE'S NOT A CRIMINAL. HE'S A ROXXON **EMPLOYEE**. THE MOST LOYAL I EVER MET.*
HIS NAME'S ARTHUR DEARBORN. SEARCH UNDER...

"...SUNTURION!"
I GAVE YOU EVERYTHING! EVERYTHING! AND YOU DO THIS TO ME?
ROXXON WAS MY LIFE! I AM THIS COMPANY! IF I'M GOING DOWN...
...I'M TAKING YOU WITH ME!
ROXXON

COMPANY MAN

CHRISTOS GAGE WRITER
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JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
ALAN FINE EXEC. PRODUCER

ARTHUR, STOP THIS! BEFORE YOU KILL SOMEONE!
I GAVE THEM TIME TO RUN. ANYONE WHO STAYS IS PART OF THE PROBLEM.
I WAS PART OF THE PROBLEM.
NOW I'M SOLVING IT.
NO MORE POLLUTING. NO MORE DEATHS. NO MORE DESTROYED LIVES.
I'M BRINGING ROXXON DOWN, AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO--
NNFF!
I SEE YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR DENSITY. SO CAN I. I'D WAGER I'VE BEEN DOING IT LONGER.
IF YOU HAVE SUBSTANCE AT ALL, THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN HIT.

YOUR ACTIONS ARE RASH AND DANGEROUS. THEY WILL STOP IMMEDIATELY.
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT. BUT YOU WOULDN'T CARE ANYWAY.
I'M SURE TONY TELLS YOU WHAT TO THINK. YOU'RE AS MUCH OF A COMPANY MAN AS I AM. WAS.
I'M WIPING ROXXON OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH. YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
ARTHUR, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD--!
IF YOU'RE SMART, YOU'LL STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
VZZAAM
ROXXON
I WON'T BE AS RESTRAINED NEXT TIME.
FWASHH

WHERE'D HE GO?
COULD BE ANYWHERE. TEXAS...MARS...DISTANCE ISN'T REALLY A PROBLEM FOR HIM.
I'LL TRY TO TRACK HIS ENERGY SIGNATURE, BUT RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TO HELP ANY INJURED--
I DETECT NO HUMAN REMAINS. NO WOUNDED.
ONLY BECAUSE YOU BOUGHT US TIME. I'M *TODD HAMILTON,* ROXXON'S CEO. PLEASE... YOU HAVE TO STOP THAT LUNATIC!
I'VE KNOWN ARTHUR FOR YEARS. THIS ISN'T LIKE HIM.
HE'S HAD BAD NEWS. YOU PROBABLY KNOW THE SUNTURION PROCESS TURNED HIM INTO LIVING ENERGY.
RECENTLY, WE DISCOVERED HE'S LOSING COHESION. *DYING.* WE TRIED TO HELP, BUT I JUST BROKE THE NEWS...THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
I'M NOT AN IDIOT, HAMILTON. YOU MEAN IT ISN'T *COST-EFFECTIVE* TO TRY.
THAT MAN HAS PROTECTED, SUPPORTED AND DEFENDED YOUR COMPANY THROUGH ONE SCANDAL AFTER ANOTHER--GIVEN UP *ANY* CHANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE--
--AND YOU JUST WROTE HIM OFF BECAUSE HE'S *INCONVENIENT?*
SPIN IT HOWEVER YOU LIKE, STARK. HE'S A VALUABLE ASSET. WE DIDN'T MAKE OUR DECISION LIGHTLY.
THE POINT IS, EITHER HE'S CRAZY WITH GRIEF, OR HIS MIND IS FRAYING ALONG WITH HIS BODY. HE'S A LOOSE CANNON WITH THE POWER OF A *NUCLEAR BOMB.*
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO LIKE THE WAY I DO BUSINESS. I'M ASKING YOU TO *STOP* SUNTURION. FOR HIS OWN SAKE...
...AND THE SAKE OF THE *INNOCENT PEOPLE* IN HIS PATH.

AVENGERS TOWER BRIEFING ROOM.
CANNONBALL
LIVING LIGHTNING
MONICA RAMBEAU
YOU ALL KNOW DEARBORN'S CAPABILITIES. THE PROBLEM WE FACE IS THAT ROXXON IS A GLOBAL COMPANY. THERE'S LITERALLY AN **ENTIRE PLANET** OF TARGETS.
YOUR POWERS ENABLE YOU TO COVER VAST DISTANCES IN A SHORT TIME. I'VE ASSIGNED EACH OF YOU SEVERAL ROXXON FACILITIES.
IF YOU SPOT DEARBORN, DO NOT ENGAGE HIM UNLESS LIVES ARE IN DANGER. IT'S TOO EASY FOR HIM TO TELEPORT AWAY. IDEALLY, WE'LL ALL HIT HIM AT ONCE.
GIANT-MAN AND I WILL BE WORKING ON METHODS TO BLOCK HIS TELEPORTATION AND CONTAIN HIM. UNTIL WE SUCCEED, THE **VISION** IS THE KEY TO STOPPING HIM.
THANKS TO HIS CONTROL OVER HIS DENSITY, HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PHYSICALLY ENGAGE SUNTURION. HE'LL BE STANDING BY FOR YOUR ALERTS.
ARTHUR DEARBORN IS BASICALLY A DECENT MAN, BUT DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN. ROXXON SENT OVER THEIR RECORDS ON HIM. HIS PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION'S ALARMING.
HE'S WITHDRAWN FROM THE WORLD. ISOLATED. HIS ENTIRE IDENTITY IS TIED TO HIS JOB, HIS EMPLOYER. HE HAS NO OTHER SUPPORT NETWORK.
HIS SENSE OF HUMANITY IS SLIPPING AWAY, AND HE'S CLINICALLY DEPRESSED.
HOW COULD WE EVER HOPE TO UNDERSTAND THE MIND OF SOMEONE SO DISTURBED?

YOU ARE NO LONGER MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, QUICKSILVER. YOUR PETTY TAUNTS ARE MEANINGLESS TO ME.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE *INACCURATE*. I AM NOT DEPRESSED. THAT IS A--
YES?
YOU WERE GOING TO SAY "A HUMAN AFFLICTION," WEREN'T YOU?
AND ALL THOSE YEARS, WHEN I OBJECTED TO MY SISTER MARRYING A MACHINE, YOU'D RETORT THAT YOU WERE HUMAN IN EVERY WAY THAT COUNTS.
I MUST SAY, IT IS NICE TO BE PROVEN RIGHT. EVEN WHEN IT NO LONGER MATTERS.
IRON MAN, RATHER THAN WAIT HERE, I WOULD PREFER TO PURSUE A LINE OF INVESTIGATION THAT HAS OCCURRED TO ME.
I ASSURE YOU, I WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DEPLOY AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
SURE, VISION. WANT TO SHARE YOUR THEORY?
NOT AT THIS TIME. I HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT IT.
I BELIEVE IT IS WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A "HUNCH."

GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT.
HELLO, MR. DEARBORN.
DAMN YOU!
YOU COULDN'T JUST *LEAVE ME ALONE*--
WAIT.
THAT ISN'T NECESSARY.
YOU WILL ONLY UPSET YOUR WIFE.

EX-WIFE. SHE DIVORCED ME A YEAR BEFORE I BECAME SUNTURION.
THE OLD CLICHÉ. I LIVED FOR MY WORK. I WASN'T MARRIED TO *HER*, I WAS MARRIED TO *ROXXON*.
LOOK WHAT I HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT.
I HAVE LOST FAMILY AS WELL. I UNDERSTAND HOW...*ALONE* ONE CAN FEEL.
WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU, ARTHUR. WE HAVE THE FINEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS IN THE WORLD AMONG OUR RANKS.
ALL WE ASK IS THAT YOU *LET US*.
AND THAT I STOP MY ATTACKS ON ROXXON. I CAN'T DO THAT.
I KNEW A YOUNG LADY ONCE. THEY GAVE HER POWERS LIKE MINE. SHE SOON SAW ROXXON FOR WHAT THEY ARE. DID WHAT I'M DOING NOW.
I *KILLED* HER.
I HAVE *SO MUCH* TO ATONE FOR.

I WAS A FOOL FOR FAR TOO LONG.
I CAN'T LET YOU STOP ME. I WON'T.
VVRRZZZ
YOU'RE BEING A FOOL *NOW.*
I UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS TO BE *OTHER* THAN HUMAN.
TO GIVE YOUR LIFE TO AN ORGANIZATION.
I KNOW IT'S EASIER TO *LASH OUT--*
--IN FRANTIC BURSTS OF ACTION--
KRRZZ

--THAN TO COME TO TERMS WITH ONE'S LIMITATIONS. ONE'S PAIN.
WHOOOM
AND THE PAIN WE BRING TO OTHERS.
IT IS NO WEAKNESS TO ASK FOR HELP.
IT TAKES FAR MORE STRENGTH THAN SUFFERING ALONE.
AND WHEN YOU ASKED FOR HELP...THE AVENGERS GAVE IT?
I...
...THEY ALWAYS HAVE IN THE PAST.
DO YOU SLEEP, VISION?
I DO NOT REQUIRE IT, NO.
ME NEITHER. AND YET I'M SO TIRED...
ALL RIGHT. I'M ASKING.
HELP ME.

AVENGERS TOWER.
WE'LL NEED TO GIVE THE COMPUTERS SOME TIME TO WORK.
GREAT JOB BRINGING HIM IN, VISION.
IT REQUIRED MINIMAL PERSUASION. I TOLD HIM YOU WERE LEARNED MEN. GOOD MEN. THAT YOU WOULD DO ALL IN YOUR POWER TO SAVE HIM.
VISION?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I WATCH YOU, HELPING HIM. MY *FRIENDS*. THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO ME IN THE WORLD.
DOING ALL WITHIN YOUR CONSIDERABLE POWER. BRINGING ALL YOUR RESOURCES TO BEAR ON BEHALF OF THIS MAN YOU HARDLY KNOW.
AND YET YOU LEFT ME IN A WAREHOUSE. IN *PIECES*. FOR *ALL* THAT *TIME*.
AFTER ALL I'VE DONE...ALL I'VE GIVEN THE AVENGERS... *HOW?*
HOW COULD YOU JUST...*FORGET* ME?

VISION...IT'S NOT THAT WE DIDN'T TRY. WE NEVER *STOPPED* TRYING. BUT IT WAS... *COMPLICATED.*
REBUILDING YOUR BODY WASN'T THE PROBLEM. BUT YOUR PERSONA...WE WERE AFRAID OF ERASING OR REWRITING IT. REMOVING WHAT MAKES YOU *YOU.* OUR *FRIEND.*
AND IT GOT EXPONENTIALLY *MORE* COMPLEX WHEN THAT *YOUNG* VISION TOOK SHAPE FROM YOUR REMAINS. SOME OF US THOUGHT THAT *WAS* YOU, REBORN.
IT WAS A *THEORY,* ALL RIGHT?
THE POINT IS, WE NEVER GAVE UP. WE KNEW OUR BEST OPTION WAS TO GET YOU TO THE POINT WHERE YOUR BODY COULD HEAL *ITSELF,* WHICH IS WHAT HAPPENED.
IT SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN SO LONG. THERE WAS...A LOT GOING ON. I WAS KIDNAPPED BY *SKRULLS...*
AND THAT MESS WITH *NORMAN OSBORN.* DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THAT.
I UNDERSTAND. LIFE WENT ON WITHOUT ME. AND YOU WITH IT.
IT IS...ONLY NATURAL.
WELL?
DO I HAVE A CHANCE?

WE'VE CONFIRMED ROXXON'S DIAGNOSIS, BUT...
I'M SORRY, ARTHUR. WE JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR PHYSIOLOGY WELL ENOUGH. WITH FURTHER STUDY--
"FURTHER STUDY"? I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
ROXXON HAS REAMS OF DATA ON THE PROCESS THAT MADE ME THIS WAY. IF THEY WON'T TURN IT OVER VOLUNTARILY--
THEY CLAIM IT WAS DESTROYED. IN AN ATTACK BY THE WOMAN THEY EMPOWERED THE SAME WAY. I WAS THERE...IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE.
ROXXON NEVER RISKS AN ASSET. IF THEY'RE WILLING TO LET ME DIE, THEY HAVE A WAY TO REPLACE ME.
ARTHUR, LISTEN TO ME. WE WILL FIND A WAY TO HELP YOU. JUST GIVE US A CHANCE TO--
YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE. SO DID THEY. NOW--
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
SEALED THE LAB AGAINST MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS. SO YOU DON'T TELEPORT AWAY AND DO SOMETHING RASH.
ARTHUR, I PROMISE YOU--
YOU PROMISE?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF PROMISES!
VZZAASSHH
THIS IS NOT THE ANSWER.
IT'S MY ANSWER.
AND IN THE END, OUR LIVES--
--ARE IN NO ONE'S HANDS BUT OUR OWN.

HE'S TELEPORTED.
BUT NOW WE HAVE ENOUGH DATA ON HIM TO TRACK HIS ENERGY SIGNATURE. SEE WHERE IT POPS UP...
NEW JERSEY. A ROXXON RESEARCH CENTER...
...WITH NEARLY THREE THOUSAND EMPLOYEES.
NEW JERSEY.
OUT! YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO CLEAR THE BUILDING!
OR BURN WITH IT!

I HOPED ROXXON WAS EXAGGERATING YOUR MENTAL STATE. BUT HERE YOU ARE, THREATENING MURDER.
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME, ARTHUR.
I'VE GONE TOO FAR?
THEN I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT YOU CALL THIS.
FWASHHAMM
MY...GOD.

I TOLD YOU. IF THEY'RE WILLING TO LOSE ME, IT MEANS THEY PLAN TO REPLACE ME. TO CREATE MORE LIKE ME.
YOUNG. AMBITIOUS. COMPLIANT.
WITH NO IDEA THEY'RE ENABLING THEIR OWN DEATH.
DID THEY TELL YOU THIS PROCESS WILL KILL YOU?
K-KILL ME? MR. HAMILTON, WHAT--?
THERE'S NO PROOF OF--
GET OUT. WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
NOT YOU, HAMILTON.
YOU HAVE TOO MUCH TO ANSWER FOR.

QUICKSILVER, GET THEM OUT OF HERE!
STILL? YOU SEE WHAT THEY'VE DONE, AND *STILL*--?
THEN THIS IS ON *YOUR* HEAD, TOO!
NICE...TRY. BUT I'VE FLOWN THROUGH *SOLAR STORMS.*
I HOPE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH...
"...FOR YOUR SAKE."
OH, THAT SNEAKY LITTLE--
--HE TELEPORTED ME OFF THE PLANET!

DON'T YOU SEE? THEY'LL NEVER STOP! THEY'LL KEEP DOING THIS TO PEOPLE!
UNLESS I END IT!
HE'S APPROACHING CRITICAL MASS! HANK, WE NEED TO CONTAIN HIM NOW!
I'M WORKING AS FAST AS I CAN! IT'S ONE THING TO DO IT IN A LAB, ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY IN THE FIELD!
WE NEED SOMETHING, AND WE NEED IT FAST!
ALLOW ME.
SO YOU CAN TOUCH ME. THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN STOP ME.
NO.
BUT I SHALL TELL YOU WHAT DOES.

YOU ARE COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF MICROWAVE ENERGY. SINCE WE MET, I HAVE BEEN ANALYZING YOUR MAKEUP. I UNDERSTAND IT NOW.
MY BODY IS POWERED BY THE SUN'S ENERGY. ABSORBED AND FOCUSED THROUGH MY SOLAR JEWEL.
W-WHAT ARE YOU--
SOLAR ENERGY CONTAINS *MICROWAVES.*
WITH A FEW INTERNAL ADJUSTMENTS--
NO! NO, PLEASE!
I JUST WANTED MY LIFE TO *MEAN* SOMETHING!
TO NOT HAVE ALL BEEN A WASTE...

THAT WAS BRILLIANT. **BRILLIANT!** YOU DIDN'T JUST SAVE LIVES, YOU SAVED **YEARS** OF RESEARCH.
I DID NOT DO IT FOR YOU.
EASY, VISION. NONE OF US ARE HAPPY WITH THIS, BUT--
BUT WE'RE BREAKING NO LAWS. WE'RE CONDUCTING LEGAL, PROPRIETARY RESEARCH ON A PATENTED PROCESS.
DATA YOU'RE GOING TO **SHARE** WITH US, SO WE CAN HELP ARTHUR DEARBORN. OR I'LL MAKE YOUR LIFE A **NIGHTMARE** OF LAWSUITS AND BAD PUBLICITY.
I'D BE GLAD TO. AS A GOODWILL GESTURE.
AND WHAT ROXXON DOES GOING FORWARD?
VISION... OUR HANDS ARE TIED.
MINE ARE NOT.
WAIT. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING, THINK ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD MEAN FOR YOU. FOR THE **AVENGERS.**
YOU ARE RIGHT.
I HAVE ALWAYS PUT THE AVENGERS FIRST.

ZZZRRAAAKKK
YOU--YOU CAN'T--
IT'LL TAKE **YEARS** TO RECREATE THAT WORK!
I BELIEVE HE JUST DID.
THEN YOU'D BETTER GET STARTED, HM?
VISION? **YOU** DID THIS?
WHAT A MESS.
AND NOW WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE--
MR. DEARBORN.
A WORD?

I'VE, AH, JUST BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE HOME OFFICE. GOOD NEWS--AFTER AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH IN OUR ARCHIVES, IT SEEMS THE DATA ON YOUR CREATION HAS BEEN *FOUND.*
WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU AFTER ALL. OF COURSE, THIS INFORMATION *IS* PRIVILEGED WORK PRODUCT. FOR OUR OWN PROTECTION, WE'D NEED YOU UNDER CONTRACT.
COME *HOME,* ARTHUR. WE'LL PUT ALL THIS UNPLEASANTNESS BEHIND US.
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE **ANY SHAME,** DO YOU? NOW THAT YOU CAN'T REPLACE HIM, ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S **COST-EFFECTIVE** TO SAVE HIS LIFE?
GO TO HELL, HAMILTON. YOU'LL NEVER GET NEAR ARTHUR DEARBORN AGAIN. **WE'LL** CURE HIM. WE'LL--
TONY.
I ACCEPT.
AFTER WHAT THEY'VE DONE?
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY GO BACK TO THEM?
HOW CAN I NOT?

AVENGERS TOWER.
ROXXON'S NOT PRESSING CHARGES--TOO EMBARRASSING. THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO QUIT.
THERE IS A PRESSING NEED. I AM NOT REMOTELY EQUATING THE AVENGERS WITH ROXXON. BUT I SAW FAR TOO MUCH OF MYSELF IN DEARBORN.
I MUST BUILD A LIFE FOR MYSELF. OUTSIDE THESE WALLS.
YOU'VE DONE THAT BEFORE.
THOSE WERE EFFORTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HUMANITY. THIS TIME I SEEK TO UNDERSTAND MYSELF.
SHOULD YOU NEED ME, CALL. BUT UNTIL THERE IS MORE TO MY LIFE THAN THE AVENGERS, THE AVENGERS CANNOT BE MY LIFE.
WE MAY NO LONGER BE FAMILY, BUT SHOULD YOU NEED ANYTHING...
THANK YOU, PIETRO. BUT I WAS MISTAKEN. WE WILL ALWAYS BE FAMILY. ALL OF US.
WHAT WILL YOU DO FIRST?
SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE DONE LONG AGO.
HOME OF WICCAN AND HULKING.
HELLO, BILLY.
HEY.
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU CALLED.

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

The Marvel Now! train just keeps on a-chuggin' this month, with the debut of the all-new **SECRET AVENGERS #1**! It's a brand-new team with a brand-new mission as creators Nick Spencer and Luke Ross guide Nick Fury and Phil Coulson in assembling a crew of operatives for global missions so secret, even the heroes themselves can't know about them! If you loved the Black Widow sequence in the AVENGERS film (and, let's face it, who didn't?) then this is the book for you!

MARVEL NOW!
SECRET #1
AVENGERS
BUDAPEST
NICK SPENCER
LUKE ROSS
MATTHEW WILSON
JOIN THE REVOLUTION
FREE
001

Two other Now! titles debuting this month that might be of interest to Avengers aficionados: Valkyrie and Misty Knight form the nucleus of a female-focused super-team in **FEARLESS DEFENDERS #1** by Cullen Bunn and Will Sliney! And the gone-but-not-forgotten Brian Michael Bendis teams with Steve McNiven to reveal the origin of Star-Lord in **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #0.1**! And both series come with the certified Avengers seal of approval!

You know what comic not enough of you are reading? **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE**! Want to know why you should? Here's a taste:

Dear Ms. DeConnick and Mr. Caselli,

I have just finished AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9 and wanted to write to you immediately, partly because although I've never written to a comic before I wanted to contact you and show my appreciation, and partly to offer my hand in marriage to one or both of you, whatever you prefer.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9 is the most perfect comic I've read since NEXTWAVE. I've been a huge fan of the Avengers for a while now, and Tony Stark in particular and his appearance in this was an absolute joy to read. Everyone was note-perfect, actually, and it's so rare, I think, to read a comic that's just so much fun and works the team dynamic so well. It's fantastic that Marvel isn't afraid to embrace the lighter side of super-heroics. I read it straight through three times, and then showed it to everyone else I met for the rest of the afternoon.

Thanks for such a great comic, and I can't wait to read issue #10!

Olivia,
London, UK

And to close us out for the month, let's do another installment of Avengers Cosplay! This is Avengers fan Jason Childers rocking an outstanding classic Hawkeye outfit!

Photo by Judy Stephens for Marvel.com

There's no denying it, Jason—purple is definitely your color!

NEXT ISSUE:

WIDOW'S LEDGER!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE:

AVENGERS #5 ☐
THE ORIGIN OF SMASHER!

AVENGERS #6 ☐
REVEALED! THE SECRET OF CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!

AVENGERS ARENA #4 ☐
THE RUNAWAYS VS AVENGERS ACADEMY!

AVENGERS ARENA #5 ☐
MAYHEM AMONGST THE BRADDOCK ACADEMY!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #12 ☐
THE BLACK WIDOW'S LEDGER!

DARK AVENGERS #187 ☐
ESCAPE FROM KING THING'S TORTURE PIT!

NEW AVENGERS #3 ☐
THE RETURN OF THE ILLUMINATI!

SECRET AVENGERS #1 ☐
WE'D TELL YOU, BUT YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #5 ☐
OLIVIER COIPEL! AND THREE NEW MEMBERS!

YOUNG AVENGERS #2 ☐
PARENTAL STRIFE! PLUS THE UNCANNY AVENGERS!

A + X #5 ☐
IRON MAN AND THE BEAST! IRON FIST AND DOOP!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #11 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

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